

THE TIMES Tomorrow

An Englishman's castle: Two of the most beautiful stately homes of England will soon be passing out of the hands of the families who have cherished them. Hever Castle, home of the Astor family for 80 years, has been sold and its estate is about to be auctioned. Kedleston Hall, where the Curzons have lived for more than 800 years, is to be offered to the nation in settlement of a tax bill. Spectrum tomorrow looks at the past, present and future of these great houses and the people whose lives have revolved round them.

On the Friday Page, best-selling novelist Judith Krantz explains her own, particular brand of escapism from a dreary world.

IRA victim defied army rules

Sergeant Brian Purvis, whose wife was shot dead by the Provisional IRA at her mother's home in London, had defied army regulations by being there. He was seriously injured in the attack.

The sergeant, who is stationed at Wimborne, Dorset, had obtained permission to accompany his Ulster-born wife on condition that he stayed with army friends at military married quarters.

Shift to right in Transvaal

The South African Government suffered a setback in four crucial by-elections in Transvaal, with the results underlining the continuing shift to the right of the white electorate. The by-elections were seen as a limited plebiscite on the Nationalist Government's controversial constitutional reforms.

Sakharov ban

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Prize winner, cannot leave the Soviet Union, Tass said yesterday. The announcement came soon after Dr Sakharov had said he was willing to leave the country.

Roach decision

The inquest into the death of Colin Roach, the black youth who died of shotgun wounds in the entrance of a London police station, is to resume on June 6 at Clerkenwell County Court.

Vienna coalition

The Socialists and the right-wing Freedom Party have reached agreement on a new Austrian Government. Together they have a majority of 21 in the 183-seat Parliament elected on April 24.

Trade call

Steps for closer cooperation between the International Monetary Fund and other world agencies to liberalize trade were urged by representatives of leading Western nations and Japan at a meeting in Paris.

French loan

France has applied for a 30 billion franc loan from the EEC to boost foreign exchange reserves. Community ministers are expected to approve the request on Monday.

Aga Khan sale

A magnificent collection of African art belonging to the Aga Khan's uncle and estimated to be worth £750,000, is to be sold at Sotheby's next month.

Leader page 15

Letters: On prisoners from Mr Martin Wright and Lord Hyton; on nuclear weapons from Mr John Lysons; on the making of Chambers Dictionary; Spare a thought for cockroaches. Spectrum: The cleaning classes move upstairs.

Today's Office, pages 17-22

A six-page Special Report covering design and new developments in office technology. Books: page 11. Michael Ratcliffe reviews Ian Hamilton's biography of Robert Lowell; Ronald Lewin on war; Grotian Goulden on India; Philip Howard on Ceres; Gay Firth and Stuart Evans on fiction.

Obituary, page 16

Professor C E Pickford, Mrs Anna Rosenberg Hoffman.

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Labour agrees its election manifesto at record speed

● The Labour Party took just over an hour to agree its manifesto, adopting the campaign document it published in March.

● A Gallup opinion poll, conducted at the weekend and published today, shows the Conservatives have a 17½ per cent lead over Labour.

● The Labour Party selected Mr Reginald Freeson, the sitting MP, as candidate for Brent, East, overruling the local party's preference for Mr Kenneth Livingstone.

● Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel demanded equal broadcasting time for the SDP-Liberal Alliance during the campaign.

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

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meeting in the history of the party.

After Mr Sam McClellan, party chairman, convened the meeting Mr Wedgwood Benn spoke first and recommended that the campaign documents be adopted without substantial amendment. Mr Michael Foot, the leader, and Mr John Giddings, Mr Benn's successor as chairman of the home policy committee, and more often than not Mr Benn's opponent in the past, spoke in the same sense.

Only Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor, argued for a new draft to be written, objecting to the document's pedestrian language, but giving his hearty approval to the content.

So the contract which Labour is offering the electors is the familiar one, including heavy state spending to expand the economy with the aim of reducing unemployment to below a million within five years, the pursuit of a non-nuclear defence policy and withdrawal from the European Community.

It was agreed that Mr Foot

would write a fresh foreword, updating for the campaign - but certainly not modifying - his blast against the Prime Minister for worshipping the profit motive.

The pledge to increase the retirement pension "as soon as practicable" by £1.45 for a single person and £2.25 for a married couple will be added to the so-called "emergency programme from which it is said to have been omitted by accident."

But there will be no other changes and no new policy in the document, which is re-published on Monday.

It was also agreed to print a "popular" 2,500-word leaflet of selected goodies from the main document for pushing through letter-boxes. Its bolder, briefer language has some interesting omissions. It does not tell the householders that the aim is to close all nuclear bases and leave the European Community within five years. But Mr Mortimer emphasized that the manifesto is the authoritative document.

He explained that the text had been "very tightly written - every sentence means something", and that it had been pointed out at the meeting, he did not say by whom, that there was "a balance of commitments at each stage, and that even an abbreviation might distort the balance".

Continued on back page, col 4

Livingstone selection blocked by NEC

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party yesterday effectively killed the hopes of Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, of becoming an MP next month, but it could face trouble from the local party which wanted him as its candidate.

Mr Livingstone, in an interview with *The Times* last night, described as "deplorable" the decision by Labour's national executive committee to select Mr Reginald Freeson, the sitting MP, as candidate for Brent, East. But he has confirmed that he does not intend to take legal action to change the decision.

However, the local party will tonight consider going ahead with its own selection procedure and taking the national executive committee to court.

Mr Livingstone has warned Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, and Mr James Mortimer, Labour's general secretary, that there is a real risk this will happen. "I urged them not to go down the road they have gone down," he said.

He said that he had no right to give the local party advice and would accept its decision. "They may decide that the way the NEC have twisted the rules so consistently gives them the chance to go to court," he said in a BBC radio interview.

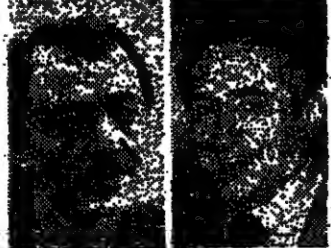
He told *The Times*: "If company directors had behaved as they (the NEC) have done they would have been indicted for fraud."

Mr Freeson, a former Labour Housing Minister, has been under pressure in his local party throughout the present Parliamentary campaign to be opposed by a majority of his general management committee which backs Mr Livingstone.

But for a variety of reasons, including an NEC inquiry into activities in the local party said a separate complaint by Mr

Freeson about an alleged secret caucus meeting which organized backing for Mr Livingstone, the compulsory procedure under which the sitting MP has to be re-elected has never taken place.

Yesterday, in spite of fierce opposition from the left led by Mr Wedgwood Benn, the NEC by 19 votes to nine backed the selection of Mr David Hughes, Labour's national agent, of declaring Mr Freeson to be the



Mr Livingstone (left) and Mr Freeson.

candidate in line with the party's rules for constituency Labour parties.

They lay down that in circumstances where a dissolution of Parliament is announced before a reselection process has taken place the sitting MP shall be re-elected. Similarly Mr Laurence Pevitt has been declared re-elected in the neighbouring constituency of Brent, South, the only other constituency where the reselection procedure has not taken place.

Mr Arthur Lewis, Labour MP for Newham, North-West, who was ousted as his party's candidate by a left-winger, is to stand against him at the general election, the Press Association reports.

Yesterday Mr Lewis announced that he would be contesting the seat as the "Official Labour candidate for 38 years".

Alliance demands TV parity

By Our Political Staff

Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr David Steel last night demanded equal broadcasting time for the SDP-Liberal Alliance during the general election campaign.

Supported by their chief whips, Mr John Roper and Mr Alun Beith, the Alliance leaders went into a private meeting with the broadcasting authorities and Tory and Labour front-benchers to press for an equal allocation of election broadcasts and, perhaps more significantly, air time during television and radio news programmes.

The Tories, led by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Chief Whip, and the Labour Party, represented by Mr John Silkin, Shadow Commons leader and Mr Michael Cook, Opposition Chief Whip, were determined to resist the demand, arguing that the Alliance should be allocated three broadcasts to every five allocated to them, the ratio which applied during the last election when the Liberals stood alone.

The broadcasting authorities, represented by Mr Alesha Milne, Director-General of the BBC, and Mr John Whitney, Director-General of the IBA, had put forward a proposal that the broadcasts should be allocated on a ratio of 5:5:4.

But Mr Steel, who said that it would be monstrous if the two main parties refused parity, and Mr Jenkins argued that the success of the Alliance by-elections since the SDP was formed and the fact that the Alliance is contesting every seat in Britain required it to be granted equal time.

The two main parties argued that the allocation should reflect the state of the parties after the last election.



Mrs Shirley Williams, SDP president, receives support from show business stars after a lunch at her party's headquarters in London yesterday. They are (from left) Steve Race, Barry Cryer, Dennis Quillen and Sir Richard Attenborough.

Prisoners on run after van escape

By Rupert Morris

Two men were at large in the south of England last night after escaping from a prison van on the way to Parkhurst prison, London, to Parkhurst.

Police from Surrey, Hampshire and Sussex forces were searching for them with the aid of dogs and a helicopter after a series of incidents including a chase across a golf course, the hijacking of a car, and an attempt by one prisoner to board a train for London posing as a detective.

At about 11.30, north of Liphook, Hampshire on the A3, a mock fight was staged by several of the men, who were among 14 dangerous but not too security prisoners being taken by van from Wandsworth prison, London, to Parkhurst.

Two prisoners put their handcuffed arms round the neck of Mr John Ship, the principal officer, and wrestled him to the floor, while others tried to kick the windows out.

The other four prison officers managed briefly to regain control but, as the van slowed before a railway bridge south of Liphook, the fighting began again and three prisoners escaped from the emergency rear door after wrestling the handcuff keys from one of the officers.

With the fighting continuing, the driver stopped the van at the other side of the bridge and a further three prisoners escaped, running on to Liphook golf course.

Of the first group of escapees, one was recaptured after attempting to board a train to London.

Mr David Thorne, the booking clerk at Liphook station, said: "He had commandeered a Post Office van and ordered the driver to get to the station as quickly as possible because he was chasing escaped prisoners. He even had the check to ask the postman for 10p for a telephone call. He told me he was from the CID, and that he was keeping an eye on the station for escaped prisoners."

After waiting on the platform for 25 minutes, the prisoner was arrested by a uniformed policeman about a minute before the train arrived.

Mr Thorne said the prisoner was "scurried dressed in a blue suit", but added that "he looked a bit rough because he had a burn on his right cheek and a scar on his left cheek". Reports that three of the escaped prisoners were in plain

clothes were denied last night by the Home Office.

The two other prisoners who jumped out of the moving van persuaded a motorist to give them a lift to Guildford hospital, after saying they had been involved in an accident.

Passing several police cars racing in the other direction, the fugitives arrived at the hospital where one was reported to have eye, face and ear injuries. But they disappeared before either could be treated.

At the golf course, Mr Michael Standing, the head greenskeeper, was driving his moped along the main road when he was overtaken by the prison van "with the back door open, and someone swearing blue murder".

Shortly afterwards, he saw the van stop and three men get out and run on to the course, pursued by a prison officer. Mr Standing drove back to the clubhouse; another member of his staff subsequently saw one



At large: James Watts (left) and Anthony Jones.

of the men cross the A3 in the direction of Longmoor.

Meanwhile, Mr James Stewart, aged 64, a retired telephone engineer, had just left the sixteenth green "Suddenly off the A3 changed four or five chaps, covering 100 yards in about 12 seconds. They charged up the sixteenth fairway, and then we saw they were being pursued a man in uniform."

"He shouted at us, 'For God's sake, phone the police'. At that moment the postman came round the corner in his van, on his way to the clubhouse, and we told him to tell the secretary. 'We played the next two holes, but my opponent must have been put off because he lost the next, and I won the match two and one.'"

Commander John Ashton, secretary of the Liphook golf

Continued on back page, col 2

Full-time union officials strike

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Full-time union officials will walk out on strike today and halt their union conference after delegates voted overwhelmingly for an investigation which could lead to cuts in their pay.

The decision by the full-time officials to go on strike was proposed as a lunch-time meeting yesterday by Mr Alastair Graham, the union's general secretary.

The conference of the Civil and Public Services Association agreed the investigation by a 2-1 majority despite complaints that "if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys" from some delegates, who supported the full-time officials.

The strike will involve more than 200 members of the Association of Professional Executive Clerical and Computer Staffs (Apex) and is likely to last for an hour both in Brighton, where the conference is being held, and among the union's head office staff in London.

Rank and file union members were solidly behind the investigation, according to some delegates, comparing the £22,201 a year earned by the union's general secretary, with the £5,000 a year earned by union members working in Government offices.

The left-wing delegates argued that the high salaries earned by full-time officials removed them from the ordinary members and made it more difficult for them to argue the union's case in wage negotiations with the Government.

The investigation was backed by the union's left-wing executive which also guaranteed that there would be no pay cuts for those officials currently working for the union.

Affiliation ballot, page 2

Second black found dead in Transvaal cell

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A second black man died last week in the Durban police station in south-eastern Transvaal, it was disclosed yesterday.

The dead man was identified by captain Nio Janake of the Eastern Transvaal police as Mr Zofania Sibanyoni, aged 33. He said that Mr Sibanyoni had been found dead in the police station kitchen on Wednesday night.

Captain Janake said that Mr Sibanyoni had been taken to the police station as "a suspect in a case of stock theft".

The adoption of the royal livery colour had happened "in all innocence", the bishop added. It first came to light when the Queen visited one of the cathedrals.

Use of royal scarlet reclaimed

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

In deference to the wishes of the Queen, the Church of England has been asked to phase out the use of scarlet vestments worn by chorists and servers.

Guidance issued to the church yesterday specifies that scarlet should be reserved for royal chaplains and other clergy connected with the Royal Household.

The Clerk of the Closet, the Right Rev John Rickensteth, who is the Bishop of Bath and Wells, has written to all bishops saying that scarlet vestments should be replaced with another colour as they wear out. The Queen was anxious not to cause those concerned extra expense.

Other shades of red are permissible, but should be chosen to avoid clashing with those scarlet garments which were still in use.

The bishop suggests replacement vestments could be bought in pairs so that the colour effect in churches would look more natural, but he admits: "They will look rather like a deanery choir festival for a bit."

The adoption of the royal livery colour had happened "in all innocence", the bishop added. It first came to light when the Queen visited one of the cathedrals.

Bishops urge strict rules on embryo fertilization

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The techniques of fertilizing embryos outside the mother's womb should be subject to strict limitations to prohibit experiments, a committee representing the Roman Catholic bishops of Great Britain has recommended to the Warnock inquiry into human fertilization.

The committee, under the Most Rev Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow, stated in its evidence, published today, that new medical procedures must not be allowed to undermine "the basic dignity of human beings."

This could happen if fertilized embryos were treated as "mere means to an end," and not given the respect due to human life. Although the committee envisages in vitro techniques

being approved, subject to tight conditions, it also expresses misgivings at the idea itself.

It separated the conception and early development of human life from its proper context of loving sexual intercourse within marriage, thus threatening moral values which the church defended and possibly altering the status of the child in respect to its parents.

Among the practices the committee found unacceptable were the storing of frozen embryos in banks for drug testing or tissue transplants, "surrogate" motherhood, and fatherhood, so-called "womb leasing" or egg donation from one woman to another, and cloning and trans-species fertilization.

Parker reports £174m BR loss

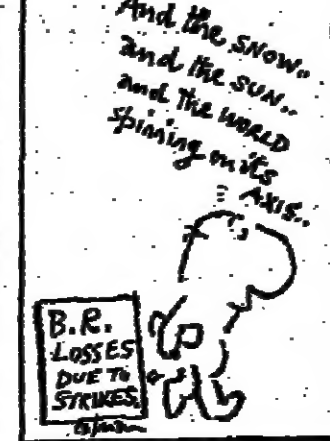
By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Sir Peter Parker, the British Rail chairman, yesterday reported to the nation a £174 million loss for the last year, but followed it up with good news.

There are to be no further fare increases this year. In addition, tough measures, such as manpower cuts and productivity improvements have increased dramatically British Rail's prospects. Investment is to be doubled over the next five years to £400m-£500m, he told a London press conference.

This would bring better commuter and rural trains, more punctual and reliable services, and more attractive stations. It would avert the "scrambling edge of quality" which he has constantly referred to in his seven years' chairmanship.

Sir Peter declined to join Mr



James Knapp, new general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, in condemning the Conservatives as anti-rail and calling for a Labour

government to save the railways, BR was now well on the way to an assured future by its own efforts.

Whichever party was returned next month would face tough decisions on London commuter and rural services. But whereas last year's strikes had cost BR £170m and turned a break-even situation into a £174m loss, it was the culmination of productivity improvements worth £250m a year which could be invested in an improving railway, irrespective of politics.

BR's latest annual report shows that manpower reductions, at 27,000 over the past two years, were well ahead of the target 38,000 over five years. A further 10,000 are expected this year.

Strikes blamed for £174m loss.

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Distribution of cinema films criticized by monopolies commission

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The system of distributing and exhibiting films in British cinemas, which is largely carried out by two distributors and two exhibitors, amounts to a monopoly which is against the public interest, according to a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, published yesterday.

The commission found that a number of monopolies existed which favoured the distributors Columbia-EMI-Warner Distributors and United International Pictures (UIP), which have about 50 per cent of the market, and the exhibitors, EMI Cinemas and Rank Leisure, which between them take about 80 per cent of the market.

There was no comment from the companies last night, but film-makers said that the commission's conclusion was welcome if not unexpected, but probably too late.

Mr Lindsay Anderson, the

film director, said the only surprising thing was that the monopoly had gone on so long without being confirmed. "It is a difficulty that we have all been trying to cope with. The effect of the choice for the release of films being in the hands of these two bodies has militated particularly against British films and their financing."

Short animated and documentary films had been especially badly done by because they were rejected in favour of travelogues, but many potential full-length films had never even been made because of the need to arrange the finance and distribution before shooting, he said.

"This report is almost too late. The two exercised a virtual monopoly which has been a very bad influence on the circulation of films and their monopoly of the two cinema chains has allowed the cinemas to be run down and become less

attractive to audiences", Mr Anderson said.

The commission's report pointed to the monopolies existing through the practice of alignment, whereby distributors normally first offer their films to EMI or Rank in preference to other exhibitors, and through the practice of barring, which results from long-standing arrangements between exhibitors about which cinemas will show a film first.

The report concluded that the only effective remedy to the adverse effects of the system of alignment would be the reduction of a substantial number of EMI and Rank cinemas, but that this would not be practical. At present EMI operates 119 cinemas with 308 screens, while Rank has 89 cinemas with 225 screens.

Mr Jack Gold, another film-maker, recalled that his film *The Refs* failed to get a national circuit showing.

Regular casuals win rights

The General Municipal and Boilermakers Union's attempt to bring regularly employed casual workers in the catering trade within the scope of job security rights won backing from the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London yesterday.

The tribunal held that three wine waiters engaged on a regular casual basis by Trust House Forte were "employees" entitled to claim unfair dismissal redress.

But Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, the tribunal president, emphasized: "We are not deciding that all casuals are employees either in the catering trade or elsewhere."

The three waiters concerned were among casual workers regularly called on in preference

to others to wait at banquets at the Grosvenor Hotel. They claimed that as they were expected to attend when called for functions, and the amount of work was extensive and repetitive, they were entitled to "employee" status.

The tribunal allowed an appeal by the three, backed by the union, against a London industrial tribunal decision blocking their claims on a preliminary legal point.

The industrial tribunal had held that the waiters were in business on their own account as independent contractors and were not entitled to redress under employment protection legislation.

Trust House Forte, which had resisted the appeal, was given leave to refer the ruling to the Court of Appeal.

Miss Tess Gill, the union's legal officer, said: "It justifies the stand the union has been taking in seeking to get regular casuals the protection of employee status. Today's decision opens up a wide range of rights for them."

The three waiters are Mr Harry Kelley, of Marylebone, London, Mr Thomas Pearson, of Cuffley, Hertfordshire, and Mr Philip Florent, of Lambeth south, London.

Their claims are a test case for about 20 other waiters who have also filed unfair dismissal complaints against THF.



Royal return: The Prince and Princess of Wales arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday after their 10-day holiday in the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas. They looked sun-tanned and fully recovered from their gruelling six-week tour of Australia and New Zealand. The couple travelled first-class on the Boeing 747 from Miami as Mr

and Mrs C Smith. The Princess, her hair bleached blonde by the sun, wore a simple dress.

The couple shook hands with senior airport officials before being driven to a reunion with Prince William, who returned with his nursemaid at the end of the tour. (Photograph: John Voos).

IRA kills wife of sergeant who broke visit rules

From A Correspondent, Belfast

An army sergeant whose wife was murdered by Provisional IRA gunmen in Londonderry on Tuesday night and who was himself seriously injured, as well as a sister-in-law, was in defiance of Ministry of Defence regulations by being at his mother-in-law's home.

Sergeant Brian Purvis, aged 33, who is stationed at Wimbome, Dorset, had obtained army permission to accompany his Ulster-born wife Alice, who was aged 47, on a visit to her family, but only on the basis that he would stay with army friends at military married quarters in Londonderry, whose address he had given.

But unknown to officers at the headquarters of the local 8 Infantry Brigade, who had approved his visit, he was staying with his in-laws on the Provisional IRA-dominated

Gobanscale estate, where IRA gunmen admitted responsibility for the murder, but called it an accident. It said that after its men had ordered the soldier out, one had then been tackled by several women. In the ensuing scuffle a shot was accidentally discharged. The Kelly, aged 78, two of her other daughters and three grand-

children at about 10.30pm on Tuesday when two masked gunmen walked in. Pointing handguns at Sergeant Purvis, they ordered him out as his wife pushed one of them away and her younger sister, Mrs Nancy Wasson, jumped up to stand in front of the sergeant.

There was a scuffle during which two shots were fired, one by each gunman. One shot hit Mrs Purvis in the back and she died before reaching hospital.

The other injured Sergeant Purvis in the elbow and chest and his sister-in-law in the hip.

After emergency surgery his condition was described yesterday as serious, but stable and Mrs Wasson was said to be satisfactory. Mrs Kelly, who has been bedridden since a stroke three years ago, was under heavy sedation.

The Provisional IRA yesterday admitted responsibility for the murder, but called it an accident. It said that after its men had ordered the soldier out, one had then been tackled by several women. In the ensuing scuffle a shot was accidentally discharged. The Kelly, aged 78, two of her other daughters and three grand-

When a customer can refuse to pay bills

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Householders faced with a builder's bill for roof repairs which is twice the quotation because work has taken much longer than estimated are not obliged to pay, a *Which* report says today.

Under the Supply of Goods and Services Act, 1982, fully in force from July 4 this year, householders are entitled to reasonable standards of service, using suitable materials in a reasonable time, it says. "If you were given a precise quotation for the job then the firm should

stick to that figure unless you had agreed further work along the way."

The law also, for example, protects people whose children knock over and break coffee jars at a supermarket against demands of payment. The parents are not obliged to pay if reasonable care has been taken to control the child.

In restaurants, diners are not obliged to pay value-added tax or a service charge if they have not been mentioned on the menu.

Noise expert troubled by tattoo

From Our Correspondent Edinburgh

A neighbour of Miss Elizabeth Webster, who is seeking a court order effectively banning the Edinburgh military tattoo, told the Court of Session yesterday that his household was reduced to silence when spectators began stamping their feet in time to music at the event.

Mr Richard Matthews, the managing director of Andrew Antennas, a communications company, said he had written a thesis on acoustics. He had installed double glazing at his flat in Ramsay Gardens overlooking Edinburgh Castle esplanade, but the noise penetrated it.

"One way to avoid the noise is to go out when they stamp their feet to the tunes. It is impossible to talk even with the windows shut."

Mr Matthews was giving evidence at a hearing before Lord Stott, who has been asked by Miss Webster, a secretary aged 25, to grant an interdict banning the tattoo organisers from making preparations for and staging performances of the tattoo in such a manner as to create a noise nuisance.



Miss Webster: Seeking court order

Snatched director tortured by gang

From Our Correspondent, Cambridge

Mr Patrick Miles, aged 48, a business man, was back with his family yesterday after being kidnapped, tortured, and drugged by an armed gang.

Mr Miles, of Carlton End, Bourn, Cambridgeshire, a company director whose firm supplies equipment to hospitals, was snatched at shotgun point at 8 am on Tuesday, the police said.

His green Renault 20 car was forced into the side of the A45 into Cambridge by a white van containing three men. One made him lie in the back of the van at the point of the gun. He was driven off with another

member of the gang following in the Renault.

The police said he was taken to an old barn smelling of grain and containing old office furniture. In there the gang demanded information about his business and threatened, punched and tortured him.

He finally woke up in the back of his own car which had been packed on the edge of the village of Newton.

Det. Chief Supt Len Bradley, head of Cambridge CID, said: "The man was missing for 11 hours. Just why the gang wanted information about his business is still a mystery."

Payroll clerk 'sitting duck' for raiders

A clerk who was shot in the knee during a payroll robbery in north London was a sitting duck for robbers, a High Court judge said yesterday.

Mr Vinodrai Mehta's employers, Standard Telephones & Cables, should have taken precautions to protect him and other pay clerks from attack, Mr Justice Jupp said.

Instead they allowed Mr Mehta, aged 45, to cross a public road carrying pay packets worth a total of £1,800.

The judge found the firm guilty of negligence, which it had denied, and gave judgment for Mr Mehta, of Erskine Crescent, Ferry Lane, Tottenham, north London, who had sued the company claiming damages for his injuries.

The judge said that he would decide the amount to be awarded after completion of medical evidence today.

The robbery happened in April, 1977, at the firm's premises in Oakleigh Road, New Southgate.

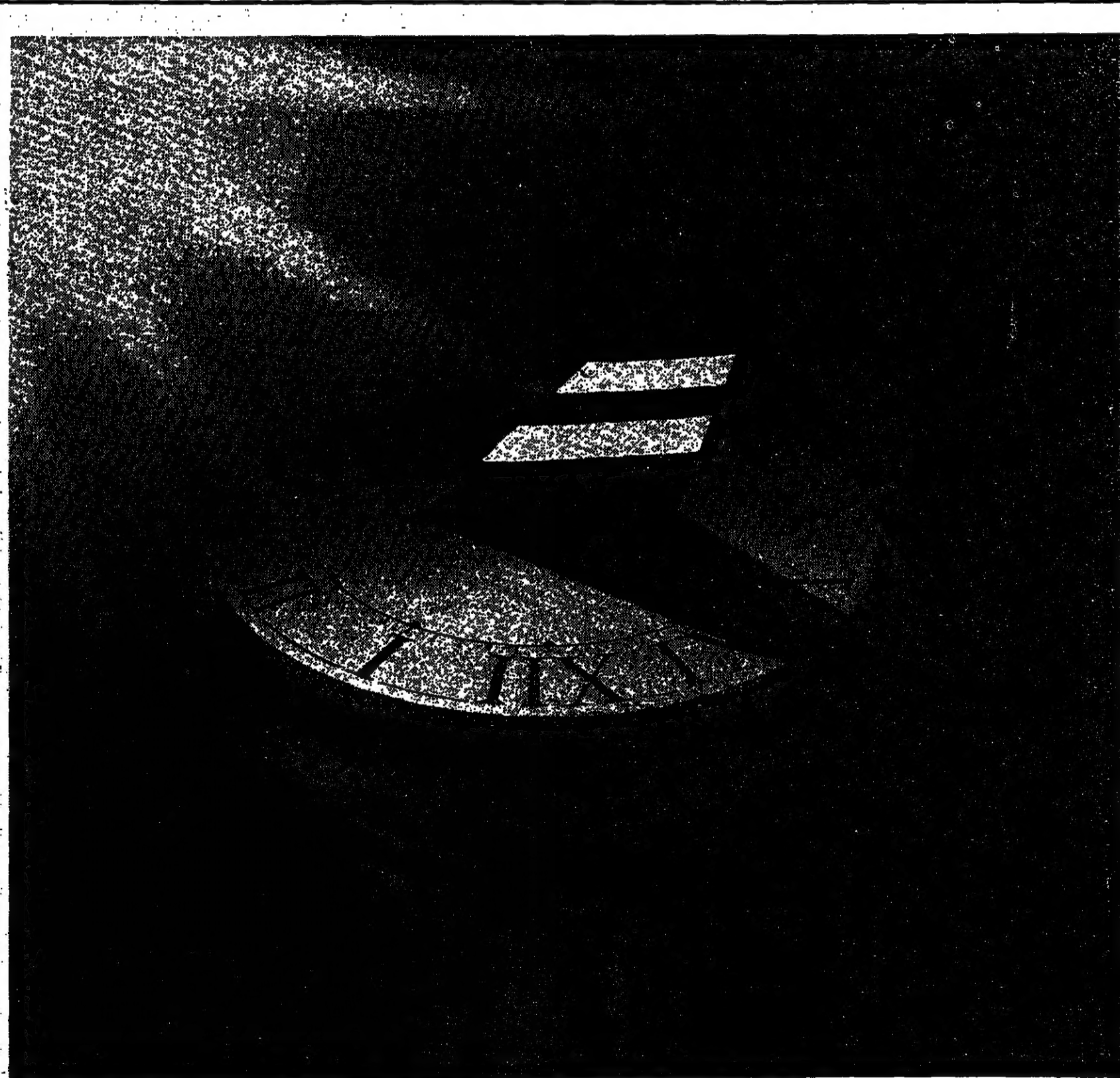
RSPCA turns £1.5m loss into surplus

The RSPCA has achieved a surplus of £465,000 compared with a loss of £1.5m the year before, according to its annual report published yesterday.

There were reductions in staff and other economies, but "income, which is derived largely from voluntary contributions, increased by 12.3 per cent."

The upheavals and public disputes within the RSPCA, which have captured the attention of the news media in recent years, has shaken only the composure of the society, the society said.

Financial cuts had not reduced the number of animals treated, the society said. Last year, the society treated more than 174,129 animals at its hospitals, clinics and welfare centres and destroyed 163,087 animals, almost 20,000 fewer than in 1981. New homes were found for 51,457 dogs and 41,764 cats. More than 37,000 cases of cruelty were investigated.



Inquiry into consumers' lost cash

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Cash deposits lost by consumers when companies cease trading are to be investigated by Sir Gordon Barrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

Sir Gordon said yesterday: "I am seriously concerned that many people are losing money, sometimes large sums, consisting of several years' savings, when businesses to which they have made advance payments cease trading."

How big the problem is has not been fully quantified but the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has received a barrage of complaints, last year amounting to about 24,000.

Ways of tackling the problem will be reviewed. Among existing protection schemes are those covering some mail order advertising in newspapers and periodicals.

As part of Sir Gordon's investigation these mail order protection schemes, operated by five newspapers and periodical publishers, will be reviewed to see how effective they are.

Complaints to the OFT about how consumers have been upset to discover that a company to

which they have paid money has gone out of business before delivery has been made, leaving little or no prospect of getting back their money.

Customers making prepayments become ordinary unsecured creditors in a failed company, putting them at the back of the queue even if a receiver rescues any money for distribution among creditors.

The concern of such consumers is heightened when the failed trader sets up in business again later and disclaims any liability for the old company's debts, the OFT points out.

The investigation will attempt to establish not only the extent of the prepayment losses but the trading sectors in which losses happen most frequently.

There are indications that sectors involved include home improvements, with builders' handspikes being common, and key-purchases for the home such as furniture.

Some "cash with order" advertising is not covered by protection schemes, the OFT says. Not do those schemes cover direct mail to the home, newspapers, and periodicals

classified advertising or advertising for mail order catalogues and brochures which request direct payment.

The Cork report proposals for changes in existing insolvency law, if implemented, could alleviate the position to some extent, the OFT says. The proposals would introduce an element of personal liability on company directors and make it more difficult for them to start fresh companies.

But Sir Gordon says he will consider other possible remedies. Those could include a ban on prepayments and compulsory insurance by traders to protect prepayments. Another possibility is trust accounts into which prepayments would have to go and which would survive intact for the benefit of the consumer after a business was wound up.

Evidence or comments to help the investigation should go by July 4 to the Office of Fair Trading, Consumer Affairs Division, Room 114, Field House, Breams Buildings, London EC4A 1PE.

11a.m. every day of the year London to Hong Kong

As timetables go, ours is certainly memorable. Every day of the year at 11am, a Cathay Pacific 747 leaves Gatwick for the East.

Those passengers who leave us in Bahrain do so in time for dinner and a good night's rest.

Those who stay with us right through to Hong Kong enjoy the standards of service and comfort which prompted a leading travel

magazine to vote us 'Best Airline to the Far East'.

For some, of course, Hong Kong is only the

beginning. For every week, one hundred and forty Cathay Pacific flights leave Kai Tak airport for a total of twenty-one Far Eastern destinations.

See your travel agent or call us on 01-930 7878 for full details of our daily service to Bahrain and Hong Kong. But don't expect us to send you our timetable. You're looking at it.

CATHAY PACIFIC
The Swire Group Ltd.
THE REAL TRAVELLER'S WAY

The BR report

Parker blames strikes for railways' £174m loss

British Rail would have broken even last year but for strikes, Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, said yesterday in his last annual report.

"Without the strikes, we would have doubled last year's operating surplus and, after paying interest, broken even in spite of the slump. As it was, the strikes cost us £170m and the group result was a loss, after interest, of £147m.

Sir Peter, who is due to retire in the autumn, said 1982 would prove a turning point in modernizing the rail business. "It was a hard year for British Rail, unnecessarily hard on our customers, but BR has come out stronger than it went in."

The report shows that before interest, rail businesses lost £97.8m, offset by a £10.5m profit on non-rail businesses like Sealink and property.

Interest, partly offset by extraordinary items, boosted that to £87.3m operating loss to £156.2m, which after transfers to reserves became a total loss of £173.6m.

But the costly strikes should not eclipse the favourable factors, Sir Peter said. There was "a momentum of change" which cut the railways' cost structure during 1982, with positive long-term benefits.

"We are still running the same size network, but since mid-1981 we have cut our costs by £250m. "We have fewer locomotives, fewer coaches, fewer wagons, fewer marshalling yards and fewer people - 27,000 off the payroll in two years. Railway working expenses were cut by £80m in 1982. "And now we have a clear-cut strategy for change that should continue to improve our performance still further."

After two years of "relentless negotiations", Sir Peter said there was now agreement on fundamental changes like one-man operation of the new electric trains from London to St Pancras, and flexible rosters.

For the first time, the annual report includes a section on



Sir Peter Parker: 'A hard year'

"the customer", which reports that "a concerted effort to improve customer service" began in 1982, including attention to the attitude of staff and improvements in information equipment.

Sir Peter commented: "As far as the individual customer is concerned, I remain convinced that the future of the railway is as much to do with the quality of our products and services as it is to do with finance and politics."

"Punctual, regular trains, sparkling clean, coming into stations welcomingly bright, manned by staff both well informed and informative - that is what matters, and for that we continue to strive, only too aware of the contrast between good and bad, new and old, in the system."

Management reorganization into market-oriented business sectors was "perhaps the biggest change since nationalization" and will transform public understanding of the railways, he said.

"We are a variety of sophisticated businesses, not an incredible bulk."

"Now, with the new scope for improvements that we have won in 1982, we can surely build a better railway on these strengths and however demanding the objectives for the future railway. I am more

confident than ever that BR can deliver."

Of the Serpell review on railway finances, Sir Peter called for clearer objectives from government, together with a new form of "contract" defining scale and quality of service. He also urged an immediate start on electrification.

The annual report said that operating surpluses before interest were recorded by freight (nearly £10m) and parcels (£8m). BR's Sealink subsidiary turned in a £2.9m operating surplus before interest, an improvement of £3.6m over 1981, and a significant improvement in its financial performance is confidently expected this year.

"This anticipated upturn in the company's performance coincides with the board's plan to achieve the privatisation of Sealink as an entity in 1983," the report said.

BR engineering, with 12 workshops, "exceeded its 1982 financial targets", with a 3.55, nearly 11 per cent, cut in manpower combined with a further £14m saving in overheads and a £27m reduction in stock levels.

The transport board contributed a record £77.8m to British Rail's corporate finances, bringing its total contribution since 1970 to more than £500m.

Investment spending was £161m below the permitted ceiling for 1981, at £269m, because of cash limit constraints.

During 1982, 415 miles of track were renewed against a 610-mile programme. The rail strike cost an estimated £150m in passenger revenue, although receipts at £933m were down less than 10 per cent in 1981. Passenger miles at 17bn were down 11 per cent.

British Railways Board Annual Report and Accounts (Stationery Office, £3.50).



Foundling: A young Pudu, a type of South American deer, on public view at London Zoo yesterday after being discovered by keepers, two days after its birth, hidden in the grass of its paddock. Named Chiquita, it is about 8in high and will grow no bigger than 16in. London Zoo has six Pudu, four of

them born there. The smallest species of deer, Pudu are found in forest country in western South America, especially in Chile. Their numbers are not known, but they are believed to be declining through hunting and loss of habitat. There are only about 40 in captivity. (Photograph: John Voos.)

Archaeology institute launched

By Norman Hammond

Archaeology Correspondent

A group of British archaeologists has announced the establishment of an Institute of Field Archaeologists to represent and advance the views of the profession.

The institute, supported in its foundation by other archaeological organizations, numbers some of the country's best known field workers among its officers and council and has declared that the entry requirements will be stringent.

Mr Tim Tatton-Brown, the institute's publicity officer, who is also director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, said: "Archaeology in Britain has at last come of age. For many years there has been a great need for a professional body in archaeology."

The idea of a professional institute was first advocated in *The Times* in 1974 and was studied by a working party set up by the Council for British Archaeology.

The council is among the sponsors of the institute, which also include the world's senior archaeological body, the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Mr Peter Addyman, director of the York Archaeological Trust, is the first chairman of the institute, with Dr Peter Fowler, of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and Professor John Coles of Cambridge University, as vice-chairmen.

MPs suggest big cut in nationality fees

By Nicholas Timmins

Big reductions in the British nationality fees, with applicants receiving British nationality free, have been recommended by the Commons home affairs committee.

It says that miscalculations mean that in 1982-83 the Home Office will make a £6m profit from the fees, five times the figure it predicted.

Applicants are paying more than double the cost for processing their applications, the committee says, and those who are successful are paying the cost of unsuccessful applications, a provision described as unfair.

When the Home Office introduced the fees in April 1982 (£200 for naturalization, £75 for registration and £35 for minors) it took no account of the British Nationality Act which came into force on January 1 this year, the committee says. That produced the "totally predictable effect" of a rise in applications from the 41,000 predicted by the Home Office to 95,800.

The committee recommends that the most inquiries about applicants should be carried out by Home Office civil servants, not by the police. That would save money, reduce delays and release several thousand working days of police time.

The fees should be calculated by dividing the costs for the coming year by the number of applicants from the previous year. That would cut the £200 naturalization fee to £80, the registration fee to £33.61,

however, that the £6m profit should be taken into account to make registration free for individuals entitled to British citizenship, and that only one fee should be charged for a family, instead of a fee for each member. In addition, those receiving supplementary benefit should not be charged.

Charging those who would suffer financial hardship would be a restriction on the rights of poorer people to apply for citizenship, the committee says. In a separate report the committee has recommended that questions on ethnic or racial origin should be included in future censuses.

There is intense controversy among ethnic minority groups about whether such questions should be included, partly because of fears that the information could be used by future governments for reparation programmes. The committee says, however, that such data is vital to identify racial discrimination and hardship.

Strict safeguards on the confidentiality of the data already exist, the committee says. Names and addresses are not computerized. However, all census forms should be destroyed after use instead of being stored, as at present, for release after 100 years.

Second Report of the Home Affairs Committee, *Ethnic and Racial Questions in the Census* (Stationery Office, £5.10). Third Report *British Nationality Fees* (published May 19).

Government confident of 1983 EEC rebate

EEC BUDGET

The Government was confident it would achieve a settlement to the problem of Britain's 1983 contribution to the EEC budget that would be satisfactory to the Commons and the British people, Mr Francis Pym, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time.

He could not say whether agreement would be achieved at the European Council meeting in Stuttgart on June 6 and 7, but this was what the Government wished to see and what its European partners said they wished to see.

Mr Pym said the Government was confident of a permanent settlement. As we come to the June election, although the budget contribution is to be discussed at Stuttgart on June 6 and 7, there will be no agreement of a permanent solution. Will be confirmed that since we entered the Market it has cost us £6,000m, and, as a nation, £1m for every day.

Mr Pym said: "Nobody doubts that there will be anything like agreement on a long-term solution at Stuttgart. Everybody realizes it is going to take a number of months. Progress has been made. The debate has only just started; it has scarcely begun. Everyone recognizes it will take some time."

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Mortgage relief limit stays at £25,000

FINANCE BILL

An Opposition amendment to the Finance Bill to keep the upper limit for tax relief on mortgage interest to £25,000 was agreed to during the Bill's committee stage in the Commons.

The Government had proposed that the limit should be raised to £30,000.

Mr Robert Sheldon, Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, moving the amendment, said the reason the Government had decided to put the limit up was because it was election year.

The average loan to a first time buyer was £14,500 and to other buyers £15,000 so a limit of £25,000 would still be high enough not to affect the vast majority of house buyers.

The Opposition wanted to help people own their homes, favoured mortgage relief and favoured helping young people to buy their own homes.

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the House would be familiar with the circumstances in which this amendment had been put down and in which he would reluctantly have to advise the House that it was not going to be accepted.

This amendment was designed to maintain the mortgage interest relief limit for 1983-84 at £25,000, the level at which it had been since 1974. That was the sort of price the country was being asked to pay, but the fact was that the change could have practical effect before August.

It was the policy of the Government on reelection to introduce a further Finance Bill in 1983-84 at £30,000.

Mr John Lowder, (Havering, Uxbridge, C) said they should keep mortgage relief above the average threshold for the United Kingdom. Prices were much higher in the south-east and Labour policy was designed to make a difference, so that one part of the country would find it harder to get the necessary tax relief than the other.

There might be a case for helping the north - he believed there was - but not by this differentiation.

There should be certainty for young people saving to buy their first home. The Government should restore this measure.

The committee stage was concluded and the Bill passed its remaining stages.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill. Motions on Northern Ireland Act 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Bill. Education (Fees and Grants) Bill. Education (Fees and Grants) Bill. Education (Fees and Grants) Bill.

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That is why it is necessary for there to be some separate arrangement for the United Kingdom budget for 1983. Discussions will begin informally at the Foreign Ministers' meeting on May 14 and 15 and will continue at the Foreign Affairs Council on May 24.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP): The Government's failure to secure a settlement on the agricultural budget is costing the British farmers dearly. When does he expect to get this agricultural settlement fixed?

Mr Pym: When everybody agrees. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr. Peter Walker) has been doing double duty in the interests of Britain. If it had not been for him, we would have an even more expensive settlement. I am confident we will get agreement.

Mr Robin Squire (Havering Hornchurch, C): Will he undertake to make clear the massive distinction between the performance of the Labour Party and the Government on the EEC budget? Unlike the Labour Party, the Conservative Party has worked within Europe to get agreements and not run away from our responsibilities.

Mr Pym: During the last Parliament we secured the then Government, including him, of getting nowhere and they did not get anywhere. We have achieved a refund which is obviously extremely helpful to this country.

Mr Pym: The fact is that however horrendous nuclear weapons are - and they are - they have nonetheless come into existence and have not caused any deaths since the Second World War. On the other hand, conventional weapons have caused millions of casualties including in Afghanistan which was a brutal and totally unjustified invasion and in order to keep the Afghans in their place 105,000 Soviet troops are required. It is a disgraceful episode in history.

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Mr Timothy Roston (Mid Sussex, C): Can he not count on the maximum support from Chancellor Kohl and other European leaders at the Stuttgart summit for himself and the Prime Minister? If the Labour Party were to win the election, would he not be in a position to undertake to withdraw, or how would he cope with the loss of jobs and all the other consequences?

Mr James Callaghan (Middleton, Lab): Will the Foreign Secretary confirm that it is more than likely that on June 6 we shall receive a rebate of more than £500m which will bring the total brought back to this country by this Government to £2,500m?

The enlargement of the Community to include Portugal and ultimately Spain, will place a great strain on the finances of the Community and could give further problems for this country unless a proper budget is achieved in the near future.

Mr Pym: We are confident that with agreement which will make that unnecessary.

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ELECTION JUNE 83 Why there are fewer marginals ● Bills that should survive ● Focus on Bristol East

How boundary changes have doubled the handicap for Labour

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The degree to which the Conservatives will benefit from changes in the electoral map is shown in detail in a guide to the new constituencies published today.

It shows that Labour has been twice handicapped by the boundary revision. These have given the Conservatives 21 extra seats and taken nine from Labour, as already noted, but they have also reduced the number of potential gains for the challenger party by reducing the number of marginal and highly marginal seats.

A uniform swing across the country from Conservative to Labour of 2.5 per cent would result in 30 seats being gained by Labour, rather than the 37 it would have gained on existing boundaries. A 5 per cent swing would yield only 69 instead of 74 gains.

The calculations are based on a comprehensive joint undertaking by a working party of political academics and broadcasters from the BBC and from Independent Television News. They have surveyed the

pattern of voting at local elections in every ward of the United Kingdom, and have constructed a model, originally devised by Mr Paul McKee of ITN, of how the present House of Commons would have been constituted if, in 1979, it had been elected on the new boundaries.

Tables show how each new constituency has been built up and each old one dispersed. For the broadcaster's special value of the model is that it allocates each new seat to the party which would have been in possession and so they can, on election night, record the familiar flow of gains and losses.

It shows precisely the scale of the task ahead of Labour. As Professor Ivor Crewe, of Essex University, points out in its introduction, the Conservatives would, in 1979, have had an overall majority of 71 on the new boundaries, instead of 44, and a majority over Labour of 101 instead of 71.

In 1979 the Conservatives led Labour by 7 per cent of the national vote. If on June 9 there is a national swing of 3.5 per cent from Conservative to

Labour, so that Labour has an equal share of the vote, the Conservatives will still have 16 more votes - 316 to Labour's 300 - and, assuming no increase in the other parties' total share, Mrs Margaret Thatcher would be able to continue in office, although heading a minority administration.

Table 1 shows that for each 1 per cent swing an average of 13 seats would change hands between the Conservative and Labour parties.

Table 2 shows that Labour must gain 50 seats from the Conservatives, on a 4 per cent swing, to become the largest party, but that it needs a 6 per cent swing to secure an overall majority large enough to be sure of a full five-year term in government.

Table 3 shows equally vividly the height of the fence which the SDP/Liberal Alliance would have to clear to make its presence felt in the new Commons.

The BBC/ITN Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies (Parliamentary Research Services, 18 Lincoln Green, Chichester, West Sussex, £25)

Insurance net for candidates

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Election candidates can protect themselves from legal actions under the Representation of the People Act, 1983, under a new kind of insurance policy launched today.

For £55 candidates can take out insurance against the costs of defending charges of illegal practices in their election expenses, which can lead to the loss of a seat and a ban on being elected for five years.

The policy, details of which are being sent to an estimated 2,500 prospective candidates, has been devised in the wake of the case of Mr Adrian Slade, a Liberal candidate in the local council elections in Richmond in 1981.

Because of an action mounted by his unsuccessful Conservative opponent, Mr Slade and his agent were faced with a legal bill of almost £50,000. Their offence was to have overspent their election budget by 66p and to have wrongly completed their return of election expenses.

In the end only one of the 15 charges, such as failing to return a charge for the purchase of 200 garden stakes and poster boards, stuck. But the court ordered Mr Slade to pay most of the Conservatives' costs as well



Mr Adrian Slade: Warning to others.

as his own, he costs are still in dispute.

Mr Brian Raincock, managing director of Legal Benefits, which has launched the scheme, said: "Candidates and their agents, particularly in marginal seats, are extremely vulnerable to legal actions over what might be a tiny mistake. Yet the penalty for the individual is extremely heavy."

Under the policy, which is being recommended by Conservatives and the Social Democratic Party, candidates and their agents are covered for any one claim within two years for up to £50,000.

Bills expected to beat the deadline

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Legislation giving more security to residents in mobile homes, providing for some social security benefits increases to be calculated by reference to past rather than forecast movements in prices, and establishing a new commission for ancient monuments and historic buildings should survive the decision to call a general election on June 9.

Barriers unforeseen difficulties the Mobile Homes Bill, National Heritage Bill, and the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill will receive the Royal Assent before the dissolution tomorrow, with the tacit cooperation of the Opposition.

The Mobile Homes Bill establishes a duty on site owners to offer agreements to occupants to enforce the duty and challenge the terms of the agreements offered.

The National Heritage Bill establishes boards of trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Science Museum, the Armouries and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London.

The other legislation which will be saved is The Dentists Bill, which increases the number of members elected by dentists to the General Dental Council; the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Bill; the Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill; the Education (Fees and Awards) Bill; the Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) Bill; the County Courts (Penalty for Contempt) Bill; the Importation of Milk Bill; the Mental Health (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill; the Copyright (Amendment) Bill; the Charities Bill; the Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Bill; the Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) Bill; the Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill; the Diseases of Fish Bill; the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill; the Marriage Bill; the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill, and motions on the Northern Ireland Act, 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order and the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978, (Continuance) Order.

Alliance row

A bitter split in the Liberal SDP Alliance has emerged in Gloucester. Although the Alliance has decided nationally that an SDP man, Michael Goldcr, a travel firm executive, should oppose Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the Conservative Gloucester Liberal wants Mr David Halford, aged 39, their candidate in the past three general elections, to take his place.

Table 1: How swings of votes will translate into seats

| Lab to C % | C | Lab | Lib | SNP/PC | Overall majority | Maj over next largest party |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7.0 | 455 | 167 | 5 | 5 | C281 | C288 |
| 6.0 | 445 | 177 | 5 | 5 | C243 | C252 |
| 5.0% | 418 | 204 | 5 | 5 | C187 | C214 |
| 4.0 | 407 | 215 | 5 | 5 | C165 | C192 |
| 3.0 | 398 | 224 | 5 | 5 | C147 | C174 |
| 2.0 | 384 | 238 | 8 | 5 | C119 | C148 |
| 1.0 | 378 | 243 | 8 | 5 | C103 | C133 |
| no swing | 360 | 259 | 9 | 4 | C 71 | C101 |
| C to Lab | | | | | | |
| 1.0 | 348 | 269 | 10 | 5 | C47 | C79 |
| 2.0 | 338 | 279 | 10 | 5 | C27 | C59 |
| 3.0 | 326 | 290 | 10 | 8 | C 3 | C38 |
| 4.0 | 307 | 309 | 10 | 8 | no party | Lab 2 |
| 5.0 | 296 | 320 | 10 | 8 | no party | Lab 24 |
| 6.0 | 278 | 335 | 13 | 6 | Lab 21 | Lab 57 |
| 7.0 | 259 | 344 | 13 | 6 | Lab 38 | Lab 75 |

Changes of party control in a seat since 1979 through a by-election or defection have been ignored.

Table 2: The hurdles Labour must clear

| | Required turnover of seats | Required swing from C to Lab % | Required swing from C to 2nd party in seat % |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| C lose secure overall majority (ie under 25) | C lose 24 seats | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| C lose bare overall majority | C lose 38 seats | 3.3 | 2.8 |
| Lab become single largest party | Lab gain 50 seats from C | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Lab obtain bare overall majority | Lab gain 66 seats | 5.4 | 5.4 |
| Lab obtain secure overall majority (ie over 25) | Lab gain 79 seats | 6.1 | 6.1 |

Changes of party control in a seat since 1979 through a by-election or defection have been ignored.

Table 3: How an Alliance advance would hurt the Conservatives (assuming votes taken equally from Labour and Tories)

| Election result (seats) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|-------------|----------------|
| SDP/Lib % share of vote | C | Lab | Lib/SDP | Others | Overall Maj | Crmj. over Lab |
| 18 | 355 | 258 | 13 | 24 | C61 | +87 |
| 20 | 358 | 258 | 14 | 25 | C57 | +85 |
| 22 | 350 | 257 | 21 | 26 | C43 | +88 |
| 24 | 346 | 257 | 21 | 26 | C43 | +88 |
| 26 | 339 | 256 | 29 | 28 | C29 | +83 |
| 28 | 334 | 256 | 34 | 28 | C19 | +78 |
| 30 | 322 | 258 | 46 | 28 | none | +68 |
| 32 | 313 | 256 | 55 | 27 | none | +58 |
| 34 | 295 | 251 | 77 | 27 | none | +44 |
| 36 | 272 | 237 | 114 | 27 | none | +35 |

* Includes the Speaker.

Benn's tough task

Constituency profile: Bristol East

Mr Wedgwood Benn, having come through his first battle by securing a new constituency, at the second attempt, now faces an even tougher task - winning the marginal seat. He has conceded that it will require extremely hard work to gain a thirteenth parliamentary victory.

Mr Benn, aged 58 and a Bristol MP for 32 years, believes Bristol, East, ought to return a Labour MP in good times and bad, but if that was true a decade ago it may not be so now.

Profile of Bristol East

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1981 % Own Occ | 66 |
| 1981 % Loc Auth | 25 |
| 1981 % Black/Asian | 46 |
| 1981 % Mdd | 12 |
| 1981 % Prof man | 56,878 |
| 1982 % electorate | 56,878 |
| 1979 % BBC/ITN national result | Lab 4,300 |

Key: % Owner Occ: proportion owning their own homes; % Loc Auth: proportion of council tenants; % Black/Asian: proportion from the Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Mdd: proportion of mental health workers; % Prof man: Professionals, higher managers, and independent farmers; BBC/ITN national result: Calculation of what result would have been in 1979 in new boundary constituencies by joint BBC/ITN study team.

One of the biggest difficulties could be the upward social mobility of the local population. About 66 per cent of the electorate are owner-occupiers and only 25 per cent are local authority tenants. Many of the Edwardian terraced houses have been bought by first-time buyers paying between £14,000 and £20,000, and whose political allegiances may well differ from those of their parents.

Mr Jonathan Sayeed, his

Conservative opponent, who has never fought a parliamentary contest, believes party officials who say he is about to make a name for himself as the man who beat Mr Benn.

Few early signs appear to favour Mr Benn, whose constituency of Bristol, South East, disappeared under boundary changes. He was rejected as Labour candidate for the much safer Bristol, South, and won selection for Bristol, East, only days after Labour lost overall control of the city council.

He arrived to find confident Conservatives and Liberals, who had built a small but flourishing nest in the heart of his new seat.

City council elections in wards in Bristol, East, gave the Conservatives 11,579 votes, Labour 11,131 and Liberals 6,143, a Tory majority of 448. Labour's hold on five wards was reduced to two and the Liberals took two "Labour" seats which Peter Tyrer, their parliamentary candidate, believes is a solid base for a strong vote.

Mr Sayeed, aged 35, a shipping and insurance consultant whose grandfather was Indian, previously contested two Greater London Council elections and lost, but he said he will win Bristol, East.

Mr Tyrer, aged 36, and Oxford area organizer and member of CND, cut his teeth on Liberal politics in Liverpool. He said: "If the Alliance takes off we can do spectacularly well. It is the sort of inner-city seat we can develop and win if we do not do it this time."

Craig Seton

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Government battered in Transvaal by-elections as electorate shifts right

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg



Andries Treurnicht: A sweeping victory

To the relief of the South African Government, Mr Fanie Botha, the Minister of Manpower and one of the most senior reformist figures in the Cabinet, managed to hang on to his Soutpansberg constituency in the north of Transvaal in Tuesday's by-election. In a straight fight with Mr Tom Langley of the extreme right-wing Conservative Party, it was one of four crucial by-elections held on Tuesday, all in Transvaal.

The Conservative Party was formed only a little over a year ago, when Dr Andries Treurnicht, a former Cabinet minister and 16 other Government MPs were expelled from the ruling National Party.

Mr Botha had a narrow escape, winning by a majority of only 621 votes compared with the majority of 3,467 he had at the last general election in 1981 over two smaller right-wing groups. One of these has since merged with the Conservatives. The other, the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), agreed not to field a candidate this time. The Nationalists' share of the vote slumped to 52.7 per cent from 63.4 per cent in 1981.

The far-right's biggest coup was Dr Treurnicht's sweeping victory in the Waterberg constituency, where the Conservatives garnered 46.9 per cent of the vote compared with the Nationalists' 31.4 per cent. The HNP, which is an earlier offshoot of the National Party and even more fanatically racist than the Conservatives, picked up the remainder.

In 1981 Dr Treurnicht held Waterberg for the Government with 58.1 per cent of the votes cast. The dramatic slump in the Government's position clearly owes a good deal to the loyalty many voters felt to Dr Treurnicht personally. Had the Waterberg swing been repeated in Soutpansberg, Mr Botha would have lost.

The Government regained the affluent, upper middle-class Waterkloof constituency in Pretoria, which had been

occupied by Mr Langley for the Conservatives until he resigned to fight Mr Botha in the Soutpansberg, fairly comfortably holding off a challenge from the Liberal Progressive Federal Party (LPFP).

Both the Nationalists and the Progressives saw their share of the poll decline by just under 14 per cent, while the Conservatives taking 19 per cent of the votes in this supposedly "liberal" Afrikaner constituency.

The fourth by-election was held in the gold-mining constituency of Carletonville to the south-west of Johannesburg to fill a vacant seat on the Transvaal Provincial Council. The turnout here was much lower than the 78 to 80 per cent recorded elsewhere. The National Party held the seat with a reduced majority, but its 45.1 per cent share of the poll was exceeded by the 48.1 per cent cast for the Conservatives and HNP candidates combined.

The indifference to the elections of the country's 21 million black Africans was neatly summed up in a cartoon in the Sowetan, the main daily newspaper for blacks, which showed a black woman and her small granddaughter walking past election posters urging "Vote NP, Vote CP", and so on.

The girl asks: "Granny what is a vote?" Otherwise the paper did not devote a single line to coverage of the elections.

The Government has been badly wounded, but not as grievously as it at one time feared, by the results of the four by-elections which show a continuing, strong, rightward shift in the country's all-white politics.

The by-elections are seen here as a mini-plebiscite on the Government's controversial constitutional reforms, which had their first reading in the House of Assembly in Cape Town last week. The Government has promised to submit them to a full-scale white referendum before they are implemented.

The Government's aim is to set up a new, racially segregated, tri-cameral Parliament for the country's 4.6 million whites, 2.7 mixed-race Coloureds and 850,000 Indians, but to retain overall control in white hands through a complex veto mechanism and a powerful executive presidency that would replace the present Westminster-type constitutional model.

Although he put a bold face on the results, Mr F W Botha, the Prime Minister and leader of the National Party, acknowledged that the Government's once monolithic Afrikaner base was now deeply fissured. He promised to make an "in-depth study of the deep division of the voters" and to evaluate thoroughly the implications.

Throughout the election campaign, the constitutional reforms were denounced by far-right parties as heralding the end of undiluted white supremacy, while the liberal Progressive Federal Party, at present the main opposition, castigated them as cosmetic and fraudulent.

The main blow to the Government is the psychological one of suffering in Waterberg its first loss of a parliamentary seat to a party to its right since it came to power in 1948.



True art: French artist César (front) taking a hand in the destruction of 6,357 counterfeit Cartier watches in Paris. He intends to make a sculpture out of the smashed fakes.

£780m olive-branch to Britain

From Ian Murray, Brussels

New job-creating policies for the European Community would be given an extra £780m, according to the preliminary draft budget for 1984 put forward yesterday by the Commission. But spending that extra amount of money, mainly to try to satisfy British demands, would all but bankrupt the EEC.

The budget is very careful to ignore any mention of Britain, though it is blatantly obvious that meeting British grievances has been a big factor in drawing up the figures.

In an explanatory note to the budget, the Commission says that "supplementary measures are no longer an appropriate way of dealing with the problem. Rather there needs to be a special reinforcement of Community policies of particular interest to the United Kingdom."

This has meant substantial increases are proposed for so-called "new policies", which would largely be administered through the social and regional funds.

The Commission would expect that the bulk of this extra money would go to Britain, disguised as a Community policy covering a particular project designated by the Council of Ministers.

This is a device to placate the European Parliament, which last year threw out a supplementary budget for a British rebate on the ground that this was not money spent on the Community.

It means the Council of Ministers has now been passed the buck and must decide how much money Britain should receive for 1983, and the Council is notoriously slow to agree on this kind of package.

Mrs Thatcher has made it clear she expects a figure to be agreed by the time the European summit is held in Stuttgart on June 6, so that the Commission can write it into its draft budget in July.

How much of the extra £780m for new policies Britain would receive is bound to be the subject of intense argument. France may be expected to soften its traditionally hard opposition, as it is asking the Community for a £2,400m loan and will therefore be seeking to win support.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, said yesterday that Britain would have to accept the need for an increase in the permitted size of the EEC budget, if it was ever to see a fairer balance between its payments to, and receipts from, the Community.

Muldoon backs monetary reform

By Richard Dowling

At a lunch with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street yesterday Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, explained in detail proposals for a new "Bretton Woods" conference to reform the international monetary system. He said he hoped the matter would be raised at the Williamsburg summit due to take place in the United States shortly.

The three most important countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - the United States, Britain and West Germany - remained unconvinced of the need for such a meeting. He said Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Prime Minister of Japan, had written to him to say that while he had certain reservations about the scheme he hoped to raise it at the Williamsburg summit.

At a press conference in London yesterday, Mr Muldoon criticized press coverage of the recent tour of New Zealand by the Prince and Princess of Wales, in particular a report in *The Sun* and *The Times* which claimed he was using the royal tour for his own political purposes.

He called one journalist who had accused him of trying to steal the limelight a "snob" and said he had made up the story.

Doubts in Israel

Peres pours scorn on Lebanon pact

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's main opposition Labour Party, launched yesterday a scathing attack on the terms of the recently negotiated troop withdrawal agreement with Lebanon and called on the Begin Government to set a firm deadline for Syrian compliance with the scheme.

Speaking on a day when it was announced that five more Israeli soldiers were sentenced to up to 35 days' imprisonment for refusing to serve in Lebanon, Mr Peres suggested June 6, first anniversary of the war, as the deadline for Syrian acquiescence. If it was not forthcoming, he demanded that Israel should withdraw its men to "areas vital to its security".

Mr Peres was replying to Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, who sought Knesset approval for the pact. A final vote is to be taken on Monday. It became clear during the debate that, as well as Labour opposition, the Government will also face defections from the extreme right-wing Tzohar Party.

Mr Shamir said the agreement negotiated by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, would "be considered suspended" if there was not complete withdrawal of all Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon, as well as the return of all Israeli prisoners and the bodies of those killed in action.

He explained that suspension would give Israel freedom to "act as it sees fit and according to its interests". This was taken to imply a unilateral withdrawal to a new defence line, some 27 miles north of the Israeli border and the effective partition of Lebanon.

Diplomatic observers noted that the efforts of the Israeli Government to "sell" the agreement domestically made it even less likely it would prove acceptable to Damascus.

Mr Peres's attack was seen in the press gallery as proof that the Labour hierarchy regards the war and its unhappy aftermath as the central issue in the next Israeli election. The Labour leader said that even ministers in the Cabinet were now saying that, if they had foreseen the outcome, they would not have supported the war.

He added that even Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister and chief architect of the conflict, had said that the draft agreement would not suffice to guarantee the security of Israel's northern border.

Mr Peres claimed that the security arrangements planned for south Lebanon were worse than those in "force" before "Operation Peace in Galilee", of which after 335 days there was no end in sight.

Israeli scepticism about the agreement with Lebanon has not been restricted to politicians. There have been a number of attacks in the press, including a biting satirical article in the leading newspaper *Haaretz*.

Stern to hand over fake diaries

Bonn (Reuters) - Stern, the West German magazine, said yesterday that it would hand over the fake Hitler diaries to a Hamburg public prosecutor this week.

Herr Günter Witke, the public prosecutor said that the authorities were investigating the man calling himself either Konrad Fischer or Konrad Kujau, who was named as the supplier of the diaries by Herr Gerd Heidemann, the *Stern* journalist. Herr Heidemann has been dismissed and faces a fraud suit from his former employer.

Herr Fischer/Kujau has disappeared. A Stuttgart prosecutor went to his barnyard corner shop, called Militaria, yesterday but he said he had no search of arrest warrant.

Nun refuses to obey Vatican

Lansing, Michigan (AP) - The nun who heads Michigan's welfare department has decided to stay in her job, despite Vatican pressure on her to resign because the department pays for abortions. Sister Agnes Mary Mansour said she had instead requested "with deep regret" a dispensation from her vows as a Sister of Mercy.

Topless protest at 'Macbeth'

Memphis, Tennessee (AP) - About 20 men and women, stripped to the waist and sat quietly during a nude scene in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Macbeth* in a protest over an ordinance banning topless dancing.

One of the protesters said he organized the demonstration when he learnt that one of the witches in *Macbeth* would dance nude but not be arrested. None of the protesters was arrested.

L-driver dies

Lohr, West Germany (AP) - A 17-year-old girl, who had just passed her driving test, died in a head-on crash that also killed three of her friends and seriously injured two other people. She was not due to receive her licence until her eighteenth birthday.

Café blaze

Paris (AP) - Fire investigators are attempting to find the cause of a blaze that forced the evacuation of 300 diners at the Café de la Paix. There were no injuries but the restaurant will be closed for some days.

Mussolini link

Como (AP) - Davide Barbieri, the resistance fighter who foiled Mussolini's attempted escape from Italy in 1945, has died here, aged 86. Barbieri and his men blocked a road, forcing the German convoy escorting Mussolini to stop and leading to the dictator's arrest.

Nkomo daughter takes drugs overdose

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A daughter of Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader in exile in Britain, attempted suicide at the weekend by taking a drug overdose.

Mrs Johanna Nkomo, wife of Mr Nkomo and mother of Thandiwe, aged 27, said by telephone from Bulawayo that her daughter had tried to kill herself because she was distraught over the continuing detention without trial of her husband, Mr John Ndilovu.

For the past few weeks, Mrs Nkomo said, her daughter was "always crying, refusing to eat". Last Saturday, she added, Thandiwe was rushed to Bulawayo central hospital after a crying fit and the discovery in her bedroom of an empty bottle of sleeping tablets.

Mrs Nkomo said her daughter had not been allowed to see Mr Ndilovu in detention. The

couple were married on January 7, amid lavish celebrations.

Since the suicide attempt, a government official had visited the Nkomo home in the suburb of Pelandaba, and said that, with immediate effect, Mrs Ndilovu would be allowed to visit her husband.

Mrs Nkomo said she had telephoned her husband in London with the news on Sunday, but denied reports that he has told her he would return to Zimbabwe immediately.

● LONDON: An aide confirmed last night that Mr Nkomo has been told of his daughter's illness. Henry Stanhope writes. Speaking from the flat off the Edgware Road where the Zapu leader has been living for the last four weeks, he added that he knew nothing of any plans for Mr Nkomo's imminent return.

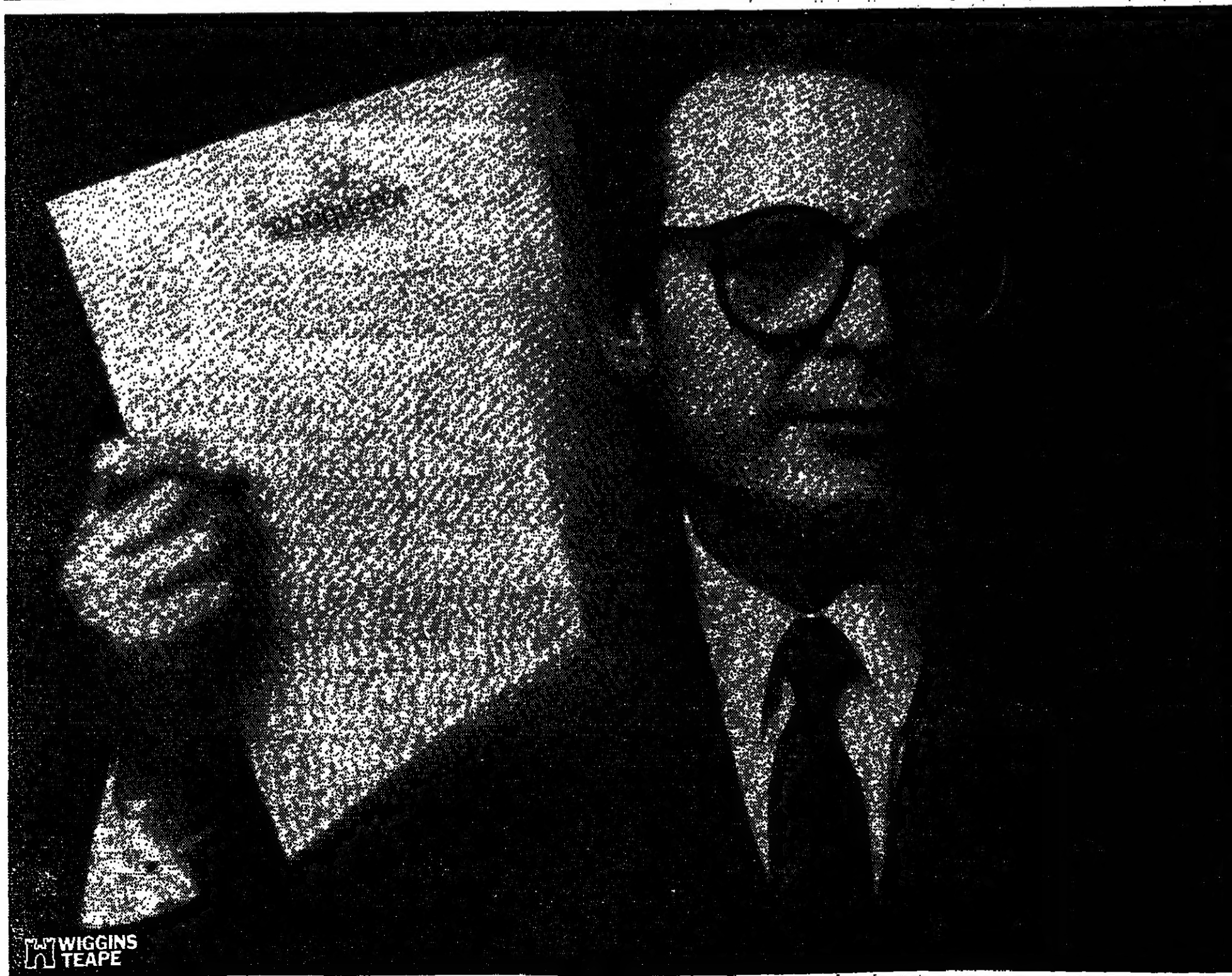
Lusaka court told of beatings in death cells

Lesaka (AFP) - Six men condemned to death for treason have told a Zambian court that they are being beaten, denied timely medical care and fed badly by warders.

The six attended on Tuesday a hearing of their petition for relief before the Lusaka High Court.

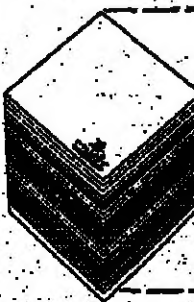
The men include three Zambians: Mr Edward Shamuwa, former High Court Commissioner; Mr Valentine Masakanya, former governor of the central bank and Mr Goodwin Mumba, former manager of a finance company, and three Zaireans.

They, as well as a fourth Zairean, were sentenced to hang in January after a trial lasting nearly two years in which the prosecution said they were involved in a plot to overthrow President Kaunda in 1980.



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Labour Party official had link with KGB man, Hawke says

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, last night named Mr David Combe, the former National Secretary of the Australian Labour Party, as having links with Mr Valeriy Ivanov, a First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Canberra, who was expelled from Australia on April 22 as an agent of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service. The revelation has shaken the new Labour Government.

The Prime Minister said that the deliberate cultivation by Mr Ivanov of the relationship with Mr Combe, now a lobbyist in Canberra, and the stage that it had reached on Labour's assumption to office was one of the reasons, but not the only one, which led to the Government's decision to expel Mr Ivanov.

Mr Combe spent much of yesterday afternoon with Mr Gareth Evans, the Federal Attorney-General, and officers of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), including the Director-General. In those discussions Mr Combe gave details of his professional activities as a lobbyist and his past relationships with the Soviet Union and the Soviet Embassy.

Earlier, it had been revealed that Mr Hawke had banned Labour ministers from having any contact with Mr Combe in his capacity as a lobbyist. Mr



Mr Valeriy Ivanov: Expelled from Australia last month.

Combe was National Secretary of the Labour Party for eight years until his retirement in 1981, since when he has become one of Canberra's best-known lobbyists.

Demands for Mr Combe's services have increased sharply since the election of the Labour Government in March. He is one of the few lobbyists in Canberra with an intimate knowledge of how the Labour Government works and the personalities involved.

Mr Hawke said last night that the Government believed Mr Combe had committed no criminal offence and that there was no foundation for any allegations that he was a Soviet spy. The statement in Parliament came after demands from the opposition that the Government name the senior Labour Party person alleged to have had links with Mr Ivanov.

The Federal Cabinet was first told on April 26 in Adelaide, and the full ministry on May 2, that it was not appropriate for them to continue associating with Mr Combe as a lobbyist. The reason given then was that while ministers should be accessible it was not appropriate that a former party official, such as Mr Combe, should have any special advantages as a result of his previous status.

The decision was made then, and endorsed without question by both the Cabinet and the ministry, that Mr Combe should not have lobby relations with any ministers. Yesterday Mr Hawke made it clear that there was another consideration underlying that was not raised at the two meetings but was discussed by the Cabinet subcommittee on national and international security. The subcommittee had considered the association between Mr Combe and Mr Ivanov.



Lawyers' strike halts Seveso trial

Monza (AP) - A strike by lawyers here forced the postponement yesterday of the trial of five chemical company executives involved in Italy's worst environmental accident. Judge Cesare Di Nuzzo announced the postponement and set the trial for June 17. The five are charged with criminal negligence for the incident that sprayed highly

toxic dioxin over the town of Seveso, near Milan, in 1976.

About 100 people wearing gas masks and white overalls (shown above) marched outside the courthouse carrying mock drums of dioxin. It was one of a series of recent protests in Europe by environmental groups demanding to know the whereabouts of dioxin wastes shipped from the plant.

The lawyers called the strike to press the Government to provide more court staff to speed up proceedings.

The defendants - two Swiss, two West Germans and an Italian - were absent at the opening session on April 18 and did not show up in court yesterday either.

Zia testing chances for Afghan peace

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Mr Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, leaves here on Sunday for Peking to begin his rounds of talks with the governments of the five permanent members of the Security Council on the indirect negotiations between Islamabad and Kabul on Afghanistan under United Nations auspices.

It was announced here that the minister would be visiting Peking on Sunday and Monday and then go on to London, Paris, Washington and Moscow in the next few weeks. He will visit Saudi Arabia as well as meet Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, United Nations Secretary-General, in New York.

The announcement said that Mr Yaqub Khan's visits would be in connection with the Geneva talks on Afghanistan, the next round of which is due to begin on June 16.

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, has stated that he believed that involvement of the governments of the permanent members of the Security Council would be necessary for a lasting solution of the Afghan issue.

Although General Zia said recently that "moderately high hopes" of an early settlement should not be attached to the current Geneva talks, diplomatic and political circles here regard the Foreign Minister's tour as crucial to the coming session.

Workers seize university in Accra

ACCRA (AFP) - Members of the Accra-Tema Workers' Defence Committee have occupied Ghana University and intend turning its halls and residences into flats for the next three years.

The workers ejected students from the campus at Legon, on the capital's suburbs. They said "students who really want to study might have sober reflection on national issues" during the proposed three-year occupation.

The workers moved in after violent undergraduate demonstrations in the streets of the capital last Friday. They also raided the offices of the state-owned newspaper, *The People's Daily Graphic* and *Ghanaian Times*. Many students were injured.

Apparently there were more serious clashes last week at the Science and Technology University at Kumasi to the north and at Cape Coast University east of here.

The severity of the latest budget proposals - many consumer goods have been increased in price between 100 and 300 per cent - and Ghana's worsening economic situation were at the centre of the student protests.

The workers' committee issued a statement after the occupation at Legon claiming that the student body had "allowed themselves to be used by reactionary forces against the interest of the people".

The 'disappeared ones'

Junta fails to still storm of protest

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Argentine diplomat posted to the embassy in Paris, was kidnapped on December 20, 1978, her body was found floating in a river in January 1979. Her relatives have maintained that she had fallen foul of the Navy in an internal dispute. Judge Zavalia has now called on retired Admiral Emilio Massera, who was the Navy Commander at the time of the kidnapping to provide information.

It was a similar request for information from the armed forces last year which led to the resignation of Señor Pedro Narvaiz, another federal judge. After receiving threatening telephone calls he left the country and is now living in Brazil.

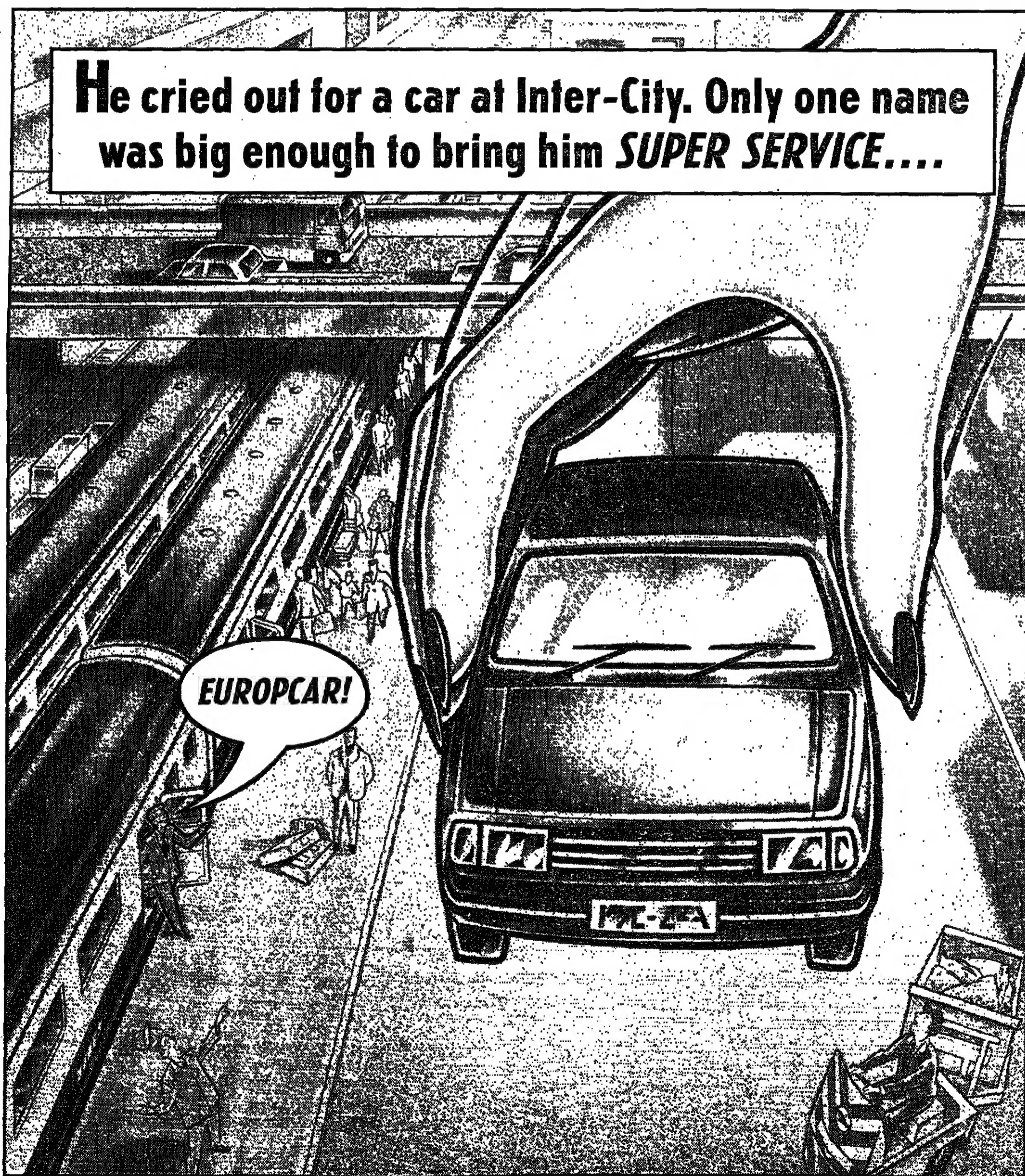
Even though many judges were appointed by the military after the 1976 coup, they are reopening precisely the type of investigations which the junta's document wants to keep closed. Also on Monday the Power Workers' Union published advertisements in the local press, recalling the abduction of Oscar Smith, the union's secretary-general, on February 11, 1977. Señor Smith has not been seen since. The advertisement points out that Señor Smith was kidnapped just as he was about to reach agreement on a new improved labour contract.

It condemns the junta's document, adding: "Nothing could, nothing can, and nothing will be able to convince a single Argentine that Oscar Smith should not be produced alive, and that those responsible for the abduction - incredible at this stage of our civilization - should not be severely punished." Reaction to the junta's document from church leaders have been particularly strong. Mr Vicente Zazpe, the Archbishop of Santa Fe, has said that the junta's decision to describe "torture, kidnaps, clandestine murders, detention without trial, the handing of children of the victims to unknown people and the shameful pillage of Argentine homes by para-military or para-police elements, as acts of service, is unprecedented".

Rabbi Marshall Meyer has described the junta's document as "a profanation of God's name". He had said that the junta "cannot automatically close that tremendous period in Argentine contemporary history". He added that "justice will be done" in the cases of those who committed excesses in the counter-insurgency campaign. The colonel also said that the "definitive solution" to the issue of the "disappeared ones" lay in the hands of the next elected administration.

In a parallel development, Judge Fernando Zavalia has ordered the three commanders-in-chief, who make up the ruling military junta, to supply "all information in their possession" on the abduction and murder of Elena Holmberg. Señora Holmberg, a senior

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Uganda lifts deadline on compensation

By Richard Dowden

The Uganda Government has lifted the time limit on claims for compensation for property expropriated by President Amin in 1972.

An Act passed by the Uganda Parliament in March this year set a 90-day time limit on the claims and the British Government asked that the deadline should be extended. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in a written reply in the House of Commons yesterday that the Foreign Office would be passing on this news to the claimants by circular letter.

Meanwhile, Mr Shafiq Arain, the Uganda High Commissioner in London, has denied there will be any discrimination between Asian and non-Asian claimants. "All applications will be considered by one committee, whether they are from white or brown Britons, on the basis of absolute equality," he said. The recent Ugandan legis-

lation states that a Board of Valuers will be set up to consider compensation claims in accordance with the 1975 decree. This decree, however, dealt only with a number of listed companies, mainly white-owned, and not the mass of small businesses. It also provided for a tribunal to deal with disputed claims made up of members appointed by the Uganda and British governments. Fears had been expressed by some British Asians that these companies would be given special treatment.

Mr Arain said the Board of Valuers would cover all companies, not just the listed ones. There would be no tribunal and appeals against the Board of Valuers would be dealt with by the Uganda High Court.

There are an estimated 7,500 British claimants. President Amin expropriated an estimated £200m worth of property at 1972 prices.

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Godfrey Davis

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Red Cross issues plea to world on abuse of Gulf war prisoners

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

After months of unavailing confidential protests to Iran and Iraq regarding brutal treatment and killings of war prisoners, the International Committee of the Red Cross yesterday made public its latest appeal to the two governments, and to the 153 other countries that are parties to the Geneva Conventions.

Its initial private protests to the Gulf war belligerents were followed by the visit to Tehran and Baghdad of a senior Red Cross official. He returned to Geneva headquarters with no more than a repetition of earlier assurances already shown to be without substance.

The ICRC statement says its delegates in both countries have been faced with "grave and repeated violations of international humanitarian law", witnessed by themselves in person or by reliable sources. These include summary execution of prisoners, abandonment of enemy wounded on the battlefield, and indiscriminate bombardment of towns and villages.

It describes Iran's violations of the conventions as "all the more serious, considering the large number of (Iraqi) prisoners" 45,000-50,000, to most of whom the ICRC no longer has access. Using "continuous delaying tactics", the Iranian authorities have raised obstacles and restrictions, refusing to

allow ICRC delegates to visit some camps.

In addition, Iraqi prisoners are subjected - increasingly since September - to ideological and political pressures, contrary to the conventions, including intimidation, humiliation and forced participation in demonstrations against their own Government. Incidents at some camps have led to deaths and injuries.

In Iraq, the ICRC registered 6,800 Iranian prisoners of war by the beginning of March who, after initial difficulties, have been permitted to correspond with their families, as stipulated in the conventions, and receive visits from its delegates.

But the Red Cross is convinced that other Iranian prisoners - it has the names of several hundred - have been concealed from it since the war started two and a half years ago and are held in places to which delegates do not have access.

So far, the statement adds, only a few dozen such prisoners have been returned to the regular prisoner of war camps in Iraq and registered normally. There has been ill treatment of prisoners in those camps and disorders have been quelled by force.

Both countries so far have repatriated only a few of the seriously wounded who, under the conventions, should be authorities have raised obstacles and restrictions, refusing to

conventions also, the Iraqi Army has moved "tens of thousands" of Iranian civilians into Iraqi territory.

The ICRC says its appeal to all countries party to the conventions has been issued in the hope they can induce Iran and Iraq to ensure international humanitarian law is applied and violations ended. In particular, it urges that, as provided for in the conventions, protecting powers be appointed to represent the belligerents' interests in each other's territory.

It hopes the appeal will be heeded and the importance of its mission and the rule of law recognized "in the transcending interest of humanity and as a step to the restoration of peace".

In the context of ICRC operations generally, a public appeal is in the nature of a last resort. Delegates have clearly been appalled by the ferocity shown by both sides from time to time during the hostilities.

Bogus degrees

Charlotte, North Carolina (AP) - FBI agents seized records from Arizona to Florida at the climax of a three-year investigation into "diploma mills" in eight states that sold false university degrees to "hundreds of people in every profession". They said indictments could follow against 38 mail-order colleges.



Teartful reunion: After 35 years Mr Cuihixi, aged 49, a Chinese peasant (left) meets former Marine Roy Sibit of Ohio, on his arrival in San Francisco. Mr Sibit befriended him "like a father" in war-torn China when he was a street orphan.

Record fire damages enrich lawyers

From Christopher Thomas, New York

A \$140m (\$90m) damages settlement, the biggest in US legal history, has been agreed in a lawsuit resulting from a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas in 1980 in which 84 people died.

The settlement, to be met by the hotel and other defendants, will make a panel of 10 lawyers rich overnight because the 1,357 claimants they represent agreed at the outset to pay a fee of 5 per cent of the

final award.

Negotiations are continuing with 10 other claimants but they are expected to settle soon. Still more money is likely to be forthcoming when a lawsuit against 26 more defendants is heard.

Mr John Cummings, liaison counsel for the legal panel and a Las Vegas lawyer specializing in disaster cases, said that his personal fee was "almost adequate".

Most of the remaining defendants are manufacturers of plastic products that burnt and emitted toxic gases that Mr Cummings said caused all 84 deaths. Another 700 people were injured in the fire.

MGM's portion of the damages is \$75m. The second largest payment of \$10.5m will be made by a company that installed the heating and air conditioning. An electrical contractor will pay \$10m.

UN asks for cash to halt march of deserts

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The world's developed nations were asked here yesterday of paying lip service to the protection of the environment while starving the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) of the funds it needs to coordinate urgently needed work.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's executive director, who opened the annual meeting of the organizations governing council here yesterday, said: "Nations consistently affirm the crucial importance of the environmental mandate while keeping UNEP and its partners in the environmental field hopelessly underfunded."

He accused governments of calling for environmental action plans and then allowing them to gather dust.

He said a world plan, for instance, to counter the spread of deserts was being treated as a "talking shop", while little is being done to raise the funds to carry out the action plan.

Dr Tolba expressed profound concern over the recent oil spill in the Gulf. "I appeal for the nations concerned to lay aside political differences so that the countries of the region can come together to deal with this potentially dangerous situation," he said.

UNEP and other United Nations agencies were fully prepared to participate in efforts to overcome the effects of the spill from an oil-drilling platform in the area damaged in the Iran-Iraq war.

Dr Tolba said UNEP was facing problems because pledges of financial support had fallen well short of expectations. The governing council will have to accept a scaling down of its operations, he said.

Instead of the budgeted \$85m (\$66m) expected to become available to UNEP in 1984 and 1985, only \$65m (\$43m) will materialize if contributions continue at the present rate.

Without lead: The average British motorist could expect to pay about £45 more a year to run a car after 1985 as the price of driving on lead-free petrol.

This was the figure calculated for a special conference on lead in petrol called by the European Environmental Bureau and the European Consumer Union Bureau which ended in Brussels yesterday.

A report produced by Mrs Lesley Yeoman, of the British Consumer Association, showed that a lead-free engine would add about £50 to the price of a car.

Paris seeks 30bn-franc EEC oil loan

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister, has confirmed that France is seeking a loan from the EEC, believed to be nearly 30-billion francs (\$3.7 billion). It is designed to strengthen its foreign reserves, severely depleted by both the Government's efforts to defend the franc on the foreign exchange markets and by France's huge foreign trade deficit.

It is the third time in the past six months that the Government has sought multi-billion dollar foreign loans. It is likely to be granted and it will bring France's estimated gross foreign debt to more than \$50 billion (\$31 billion), double the level when the Socialists came to power two years ago.

France raised a \$4 billion loan on international markets last November, and a further loan from Saudi Arabia at the beginning of this year, which was believed to be between \$2 billion and \$4 billion.

The Government has applied for the loan from the EEC "oil facility", which was set up in 1975 after the first oil shock, to help member states with severe balance of payments difficulties. One of the conditions for such a loan is that the borrower give assurances to the EEC that the necessary measures will be taken to correct its trade imbalance.

Distasteful though it may be for the French Government to have to submit its economic policies for review by its European partners, it is considered less humiliating than having to accept the IMF, which an international loan would have been likely to entail. The EEC Finance Ministers are expected to approve the loan at their meeting on May 16.

In the seven weeks since the franc was devalued, the Bank of France has restored to its foreign reserves more than the 50 billion francs which it is believed to have spent in defence of the French currency in the months leading up to the realignment of the European Monetary System in March.

The franc is now holding up well against the other EMS currencies, but a new attack could come at any time, particularly if the latest austerity measures do not appear to be bearing fruit quickly enough. The Government wishes to be better prepared this time. It does not want to have to seek a further foreign loan when the franc is weak and when such a move would only aggravate speculative pressures.

Senate compromises on Salvador aid

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan is putting economic pressure on Nicaragua to try to reduce its means of financing its military build-up and support for left-wing causes in Central America.

But as the White House announced on Monday the President's decision to cut Nicaragua's sugar export quota to the United States, the Senate Foreign Relations committee adopted a compromise programme for military aid to El Salvador after rejecting the bigger increases sought by Mr Reagan.

The committee voted to cut \$70m (£56m) off the President's \$222.6m military aid request for the next two years for El Salvador, which is battling with left-wing guerrillas. It voted by 17-0 to limit all US military aid to El Salvador to \$76.3m each year.

If approved by the full Congress, the committee's action would also prohibit any increase in the present 55 American military trainers in El Salvador. Instead, it earmarked \$20m each year to allow most of the training of Salvadoran troops to be done in the United States.

Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, said that committee members should "take responsibility" if President Reagan's programme to help El Salvador resist

guerrillas fails because of funding cuts by Congress. Meanwhile, the sugar export quota freed by the US reduction would be added to the quotas of Nicaragua's three neighbours - Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador. They generally support President Reagan's Central America policy. Honduras would get 32 per cent of it, Costa Rica 30 per cent and El Salvador 18 per cent.

"By denying to Nicaragua a foreign exchange benefit resulting from the high US sugar price, we hope to reduce the resources available to that country for financing its military build-up and its support for subversion and extremist violence in the region," a White House statement said.

Nicaragua last year earned about \$15.5m in sugar sales to the United States. Washington embargoed Cuban sugar imports more than 20 years ago, and Cuba now heavily depends on Moscow to buy its sugar crop.

SAN SALVADOR: The Salvadoran Army said yesterday that government troops had recaptured the village of Cinquera in north-east El Salvador, which had been captured by left-wing guerrillas on Saturday. The commander of the Tejutepaque unit said his forces had inflicted heavy casualties, but gave no figures.

Thousands back Ethiopia call-up with war songs

Addis Ababa (AFP) - Old warrior songs rang through Revolution Square here yesterday as tens of thousands of people demonstrated in support of last week's Government proclamation launching national military service.

The crowd, estimated to be one of the biggest of its kind in recent years, carried banners and chanted slogans backing the decree that legalized conscription in Ethiopia for the first time. Traditional battle songs were sung during the six-hour rally addressed by Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the head of state.

In his speech Colonel Mengistu recalled that weakened defences had caused disasters in past revolutions.

The ruling military council, or Dergue, announced on May 3 that all citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 would be eligible for conscription.

Spain to send Nazi back to Netherlands

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A former member of the Nazi SS, sentenced for crimes during the Second World War, is to be extradited to The Netherlands, a Madrid court decided yesterday.

Auke-Bert Pattist, born in Utrecht and now aged 62, has been living in Spain for more than 30 years, recently running a language school in Oviedo. He was arrested by the Spanish police last February.

The decision could have repercussions for other former Nazis who came to Franco's Spain after 1945.

The Dutch authorities originally asked for Mr Pattist's extradition under their treaty with Spain in 1979. He had been sentenced by a Dutch court to life imprisonment for joining the forces of an enemy of The Netherlands, and for detaining and ill-treating Dutch citizens, many of whom went to concentration camps.

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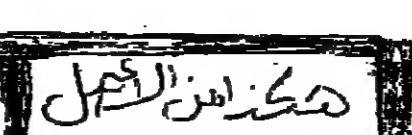


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SPECTRUM

The cleaning classes move upstairs

MODERN TIMES

A sideways look at the British way of life

Back in the old days, when Mrs Dale was still telling her cleaning lady Mrs Maggs how worried she was about Jim, everyone knew where they were with the daily.

She was the jolly, dependable woman of an indeterminate age who wore a flowered apron crossing over at the front and tied her hair in a scarf to keep out the dust. She usually smoked, but never dropped so much ash that her carpet sweeper clogged. Even Tommy Handley now where he was with his, she always wanted to know if she could "do him now".

But in the last decade the daily help, the domestic, the char, or "the lady that does", as she has variously been called, has been transformed. She has been getting younger, and she wouldn't be seen dead in an apron. The modern cleaning lady wears a jogging suit that clings to her thighs, has well varnished finger nails, refuses to clean ovens, and can, on occasions, be a man.

Someone in jeans is now the answer to the age old quest for a household servant. Out-of-work actors, poets, philosophers, violinists, young mothers and debutante daughters are taking the place of the little old lady from round the corner who has been "coming in to do" for years.

The days of the twenny, the between maid who helped out in both the kitchen and the house; or even the all-purpose skivvy have gone. The cleaning operative is with us. As the sociologist Dr Paul Arthure-Clough pointed out recently "The servant is emerging as our newest privileged class".

Certainly the new breed of cleaning lady or cleaning man would not disgrace a dinner party. On the night after the Grand National I was seated in North Wales beside a clean cut young man with delicate pronunciation and a lemon pullover who informed me just after the kipper paté that he "did 11 loos yesterday". It was not an exception, he did them every day. "A cleaner wouldn't be seen dead in an overall", he said confidentially. "They much prefer track suits, much sexier."

The employment agencies have already detected the change. "We find we tend to be getting younger women these days, aged about 30 or so" is how the famous Mrs Lines Agency in Kensington, which has been supplying residential and daily help for 90 years, explains it. "They come from a very nice class of home, and want to do a little part time work, perhaps to fit in with their children's schooling. But we only get about one man a week, and we can't often help him".

Men either set up on their own, or go to one of the agencies that specialize in supplying temporary domestic help.

Recession or not, the demand for domestic help has never faltered. Few people may be prepared to admit these days that they employ servants, but the desire to hire someone to vacuum the carpet, look after the children, dash round with a duster and do the ironing is as great as it has ever been. Enter the young mother and the resting actor. Even the once-fashionable Filipino maid and the smart Spanish girl have waned in the face of fiercer immigration control and the recession; while the jovial black lady is now rather more often found in hospitals or offices than in family homes.

The middle class family may no longer be able to afford a Margaret Powell, who started as a maid in Hove in 1925 at the age of 15 for £24 a year with half a day off a week, but in her place has come the au pair, the mother's help, and the different kind of cleaning lady. As the boundaries of the middle class have spread so the old distinctions have blurred. The new daily helps are not part of the old hierarchy. By the middle of the 1960s it was quite respectable for a daughter to take a cordon bleu cookery course and do a little light domestic work.

Admittedly the middle classes were not prepared to go the lengths of Lord Raglan's valet, and share the siege of Sebastopol so that they could continue to give him lunch, but they were quite prepared to become founder members of the black economy, undetected by the Inland Revenue, who received their wages in private and in cash.

Not that their pay is always astronomical. Not all that long ago the Dowager Countess of Radnor was still paying her housekeeper £2.50 a week in addition to her free flat for 12 hours' work, but they have since parted. There is at least one judge in Chelsea who pays his cleaning lady only £1.50 an hour, even though the rate in London is now £2 and above; and the employer is expected to pay the costs of transport, food and to provide as much coffee (tea is very much the old style) as is necessary.

Indeed the change that has overtaken the domestic daily has also begun to spread to office cleaners as well. The older Mrs Mopps are being steadily replaced by younger men and women who are using more elaborate, and expensive, equipment. There is certainly at least one former London bus driver, for example, vacuuming the floors of a television company in the evenings, even if the rates of pay are not quite as generous as they are for a daily.

But the gentrification of the daily has not quite changed everything. As the lady in the Kensington agency puts it: "Our clients still want someone with experience in their home, who won't ruin their Chinese tapestry, and will be able to iron their silk underclothes properly".

And my cleaning lady has just bought herself a new cotton housecoat, which is positively covered in flowers, and buttons down the front. But she insists she isn't going to wear anything underneath it in the summer.

Geoffrey Wansell



Many hands of light labour, left to right: Bridget, Pauline, Annie, Ellen, and Jean

Good cleaners attract possessive adjectives like mirrors attract dust: ask any employer about a coveted daily and he or she will launch into a colourful description of "my Hilda", "my extra pair of hands", "my Mrs Fix-it"; I've even heard a horribly nodding wives at lunch may laugh at her funny ways, husbands may clench teeth as they fail to find some necessary article of clothing, washed and whisked away by the daily - but both would sooner bite out the tongue than criticize. For a good cleaning person, nowadays, is hard to find.

What dailies think about their employers, however, is a potentially more interesting subject, but one which, at a moment's thought will reveal, you are unlikely ever to discover. Rose would have died before spilling the beans about the Bellamys and though today's "help" thankfully comes in a less obsequious mould, it will be as unforthcoming. After all, discretion apart, who wants to risk losing a job as a result of talking to a journalist about an employers' foibles, fancies or habits which, like odd socks, are probably best ignored.

However, since the inter-dependency - some would say symbiosis - exists, a good compromise seemed to be to let employers talk and dailies be photographed. This was when the problems started.

The first of a series of frantic second-thought phone calls came from a lady who had a great deal to say about her Danish au pair (keen to find photographic fame in *The Times*) before she realised that the Lorelei's visa had expired and they might both be "in hot water with the Home Office". The suave young solicitor who had raved about his Filipino regretted that she refused to be photographed. A third lady was more than happy to talk anonymously - about "my delightful young black man" (she always prefers to employ men because she thinks it demeaning to ask another woman to get down on her knees and scrub). The young man agreed to be photographed - then rang at 11.15 pm to say that his parents had

said that if he was he would be leaving home. A charming actor who cleaned when resting thought his career prospects might be a little tarnished if he appeared as "home help rather than Henry V". Yet more dailies wanted their names changed to lessen the likelihood of a visit from the taxman or the DSS; and middle-class housewives withdrew the offer of a friendly chat after husbands muttered about stamps.

And so it went on. I shall never quite be sure whether my own diminutive Chinese daily (or in my case "weekly") refused to be photographed through a natural and very real Oriental reserve, or whether she too feared officialdom. I do know that a brown, if not downright black, economy is as busy at work in the withdrawing rooms of Chelsea as it is in the kitchens of Camden Town - though not, I hasten to add in any of the households mentioned here.

Judy Froshaug

Sue Farrell,
mother and student
(ANNIE)

"Annie's been with me for three years and comes three mornings a week. She's very reliable which is something I haven't had before, and she makes the place look clean. She has her own routine, does the entire house every week in her own way. At 12.30 she makes tea and biscuits and always calls me, or if I'm lying down offers to bring it to me. There's an underlying element of a mother-daughter relationship - she's one of the family, helps with the kids' birthday parties, baby sits. She's very excited about the pregnancy, going through it with me, very caring. She's already saying 'You can't lift that', and she's had a dreadful job with the builders who've been here since July, covering the floor with great dirty footprints after she's Hoovered - and the dog hairs all over the carpet. I couldn't do as much as I do without her. Eventually what I feel I pay for is time to do other work. Annie loves cleaning and does it in a nice relaxed way. It would be a real chore without her. We've established a relationship that is good. If I were ill I know Terry could ring her up and ask her to help; we have a nice balance that I know from past experience is difficult to achieve. The great thing is to go out in the morning knowing that when you come home the carpet will look like a new-mown lawn. If she were to go I'd feel pretty desperate - I think I'd go to bed for six months and hide under the sheets. We'd all miss her terribly."

Ravi Vii,
bachelor and manager
(BRIDGET)

"I call her 'Little Bridget' she's a very big Irish lady. The first time she came I had forgotten she was due and as I put my key in the front door I don't know who was the man who was the man, I was frightened - me or her. I hope that's you Bridget! I said... She comes twice a week but I hardly ever see her. When I do she's always very polite, always smiling... I can't be bothered cleaning up. I found her through a friend who came to dinner one night and refused to come again until I had someone in to clean for me. She makes the beds, floors, does all the washing up and tidies. She leaves notes - things like 'next time you go shopping, buy some bleach' or 'do you think it would be possible to buy some more pillowcases' - that's when I haven't been to the laundrette for weeks. She has her own key. She's very good. The one I had before was terrible - a young student. Unfortunately he stole a piggy bank and when it was full we'd throw a party. One week I counted and there was only £30. I said 'if you'd needed money you should have asked me'. I never saw him again. I'd miss Bridget if she stopped coming... I eat out three or four nights a week but sometimes ask people back for a drink, or a meal and always leave the dishes and glasses. When I come home they are all beautifully polished, not a smudge to be seen."

Louise Nicholson,
journalist and wife
(JEAN AND PAULINE)

"This is a five-storey Georgian house and when we moved in it hadn't been properly cleaned for years. I thought I could do it all myself but when I found myself scrubbing the kitchen floor at 2am I had to admit defeat. I advertised in a local news agent and interviewed a stream of people. I whipped them up to the top of the house and when they were panting at the third floor I knew they weren't going to manage the stairs, let alone clean. Then someone said 'you want Jean and Pauline - they've got nice broad shoulders'. They work as a team. Apart from us they do the local hairdressers, a school, church and a publisher. I take my instructions from them. I want them to be completely in charge and would rather go out and earn the money to pay for their help than do it myself. We have a very strong relationship, often have a cup of instant coffee together. I hear their troubles and tell them mine. They like to be 'in the know'. And they absolutely adore Nick - when I went away for a month they looked after him beautifully. One day they came into my study and said 'we want a word with you'. My heart stopped - I thought they were going to leave. 'You don't like ironing do you?' they said. 'We've got the house sorted, now we'll do the ironing, we don't think your husband should have to go to work in an unwashed shirt every day.' We call them our fairy godmothers, the girls. I couldn't do without them."

Rosamund Rozen,
mother and student
(ELLEN)

"When we moved here it was from a completely different area. Ellen came with the house - she'd been working for one of the previous owners and still does for one, who lives near by. Ellen belongs in Camden, Square. She's married, with three children. Her husband's the local milkman. She's completely indigenous to the area, would only shop round here, wouldn't dream of going shopping in Selfridges - for example... We are friendly with one another but she's very discreet, takes pride in not discussing other employers, though if we feel we're both very busy we sometimes sit down and have a chat. Though I'm a good 10 years older, I feel we're a similar age, we confide about our children, the terrible things teenagers do... She comes every morning, cleans tidies up. If I'm away she always has any kind of job and not mine. If I feel like doing something in the house I will - and I always make my bed and clean my bath... I call myself not liberal, not socialist but egalitarian."

Tomorrow: Friday Page: Anatomy of a best seller: Medical Briefing looks at the new Pill

FLAVIA CORKSCREW'S GOOD FOOD GUIDE

Flavia is considering the candidates and decides to interview their wives.

The favourite is Jean-Anthelme Fichou of Biggin Hill's prestigious Nile Spot "THE PRANG"....

I hope you don't mind a few questions Mme. Fichou, but the RIGHT WIFE is crucial to the success of a Chef...

Do you help him in the kitchen?

Help? The very thought makes my bouillabaisse run cold!

Help? HIM?? the idea is positively manna-voise-curdling!

Do you help him write his menus?

she spits on them

Do you do voluntary work for the community to impress potential customers?

No, I hurt abuse at him....

...while I smash dishes away from customers who fail to impress me.

It's tough, but it's the kitchen! If you can't stand the heat, stay in politics....

Light the beacon, sound the tocsin

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston

So it was June 91. The wires of the world hummed with the glad tidings, while satellites in the sky buzzed slightly and got the Sudan woke each other and whispered: "Maggie has chosen a date". In Australia, the bushwhackers ceased momentarily from whacking the bush and said in unison: "So the old girl has decided not to run her five years, but to do what is best for the country. How wise." In old Kabul, even, the editor of the *Old Kabul Times* told his lead feature writer that he would have to hold over his in-depth interview with the Soviet commander and write a hasty column on the SDP threat.

In Britain itself, the excitement could only be compared to a new influenza virus. A chain of bonfires was lit stretching from Land's End (admission £10) to John O' Groats (free), and a crowd of excited teenagers danced round each blazing beacon, smashing shop windows and looting videos. In Wales, the news was announced in two languages, and understood in one. A lonely PC on the beat in the Lake District heard the news over his walkie-talkie and decided not to take action, as no crime seemed to have been committed.

The news was even flashed to places where Maggie Thatcher's name meant nothing. Samarkand, Istanbul, Newcastle upon Tyne. In China, where they had not had a genuine three-cornered election for more than 1,500 years, the excitement was barely controllable and the announcement was flashed

from hilltop to hilltop by semaphore. As there are over 4,000 characters in Chinese semaphore, and each transmission needs a team of 30 skilled flag-wavers, progress was slow; in one province, the news actually caught up with the previous announcement, that Roger Bannister had beaten four minutes for the mile.

Had she timed it right? That was the question that grizzled old newsmen in suburban Addis Ababa were asking one another. Many of them had not eaten properly for over two months, but their hunger was forgotten in the excitement of debating whether the recent boundary changes could compensate for lost Tory votes. In Nairobi, where David Owen is known as "suave-little-devil" and Michael Foot is known, if at all, as "he-who-has-bored-his-hair-from-a-bigger-man", spontaneous folk songs were composed to the effect that if this swing were repeated all over the country, the Tories would win by more than 600 seats, which is obviously ridiculous, what is your comment on that, Gerald Kaufman?

In the Kremlin the lights burnt late as Yuri Andropov and a team of crack British defectors worked through the night, wondering whether to throw their weight behind Maggie Thatcher and thus defeat her, as they have done so successfully with the Socialists in the recent German election. In the White House, the candles were guttering low when the news of June 9 arrived, which

was strange, as it was only 10 am, but you have to remember that Mr Reagan comes from an older generation which is only happy in a log cabin. And in Buenos Aires, nobody could understand why the British Army had not taken over.

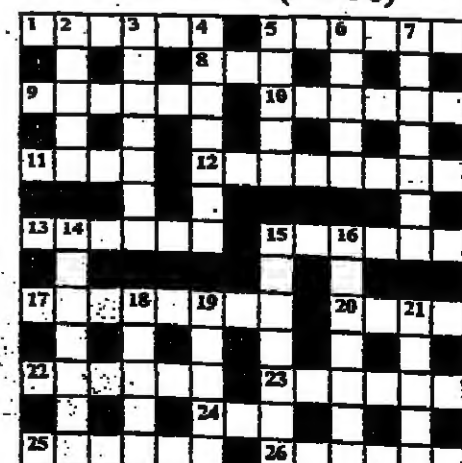
In meeting halls throughout Britain, meanwhile, Social Democrats were wrist wrestling with Liberals for the honour of representing the Alliance. Tory candidates were giving the last polish to their new Sierras.

Labour candidates were restoring the shine on their regional accents, except Tony Benn. And deep in the heart of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, candidates clad in tartan, coal-dust and hand grenades were putting the finishing touches to their election addresses.

Only in one place was there complete calm. In the civilized world there was just one spot where June 9 meant nothing more than the space between June 8 and June 10. Yes, in the Moreover offices the only sound to be heard was the deep snoring of experts who have heard it all before.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 58)

ACROSS
1 Maud (6)
2 Add flavour (6)
3 Tree (3)
4 Communist (6)
5 Girl's name (6)
6 Church song (6)
7 Not graded (8)
8 Comment (6)
9 Deprived (6)
10 Sault (6)
11 Sault (6)
12 Soft yarn (6)
13 Ice spile (6)
14 Attach (3)
15 Milk curdler (6)
16 Finality (3,3)
DOWN
1 Hard wood (5)
2 Pungent gas (7)
3 Male roe (7)
4 Slides (7)
5 Having knowledge (5)
6 Normal self (7)
7 Fundamental (7)
8 nature (7)
9 Between (7)
10 Celebrate (7)
SOLUTION TO No 57
ACROSS: 1 Bazaar 4 Forbid 7 Yawl 8 Raincoat 9 Jailbird 12 Fez
15 Drunch 16 Quarant 17 MoT 19 Loosebox 24 Beantole 25 Sir 26 Gargle
27 Flunky
DOWN: 1 Boys 2 Newington 3 Throb 4 Filar 5 Ruck 6 Urte 10 Local
11 Douse 12 Forgotten 13 Numb 14 Edam 18 Opera 20 Ozons 21 Shad
22 Snug 23 Pray



THE ARTS

Wilfrid Hyde-White (right), master of comedy and horse-player extraordinary, today becomes an octogenarian. Robert Morley, his long-time friend and colleague, pays due tribute

Star's orders

My friend Wilfrid Hyde-White is 80 today and still living. I hasten to add lest some should think they are reading his obituary, in Studio City, California. His exact address, if he will forgive me mentioning it, is 3687 Willow Crest. There are not, of course, anything like three thousand other properties on the Crest surrounding his. In Los Angeles, there are boulevards with tens of thousands of blocks but they stretch from the desert to the ocean, whereas Willow Crest is (when you discover it, and this is by no means a simple task) merely a cul-de-sac in vague proximity to the Universal Picture Studios.

Long before I first met him, when he was a young actor in the Tom Walls Company at the Aldwych, he was nicknamed "Dasher" White. "Why was that, do you suppose?" I once asked Ben Travers, who was the resident playwright. Ben had forgotten, but, discussing our mutual friend, he opined that Wilfrid was the least curious man he had ever known: "He never really wanted to find out anything, he was cocooned by his upbringing in a country deanery, a 'Barchester Towers' man."

That lack of curiosity does not of course apply to the pedigree of racehorses, of which he retains an encyclopaedic knowledge, rivalled only by the late Dorothy Paget. Wilfrid's approach to life is that of royalty visiting a glue factory. He will ascertain, if he has to, how the substance is created and then dismiss it instantly and permanently from his mind.

Dorothy Paget was one of his most devoted fans. She made a point of attending his performances, reserving a box, but seldom arrived to see anything but the last few moments of the play. Once, when Wilfrid had forgone the last line, she did not seek

him out in his dressing room, convinced she had mistaken the theatre. Wilfrid missed his customary tryst with her at the Café de Paris, but the situation was remedied a few evenings later when they finally met and I was invited to join them. Neither touched their food, so immersed were they in the finer points of horse-breeding. Miss Paget hastened to get the discussion over so that she could attack her lobster while Noel Coward was singing to her. There was nothing apparently she enjoyed more than Coward with Homard Thermidor. At one moment she summoned the head waiter and asked if Mr Coward could postpone his cabaret for half an hour, as she and Wilfrid were so much enjoying themselves.

Mr Coward had no intention of singing that evening, having completed his stint a least a month

before. I was of course perfectly aware of the fact but had not wanted to miss a free supper. Miss Paget, hearing the news, was immensely relieved and suggested that whoever was preparing to entertain her should be paid off for the evening and, of course, thanked for his pains. Wilfrid snatched the cheque book from her hand. "Let the fellow sing," he told her. "Probably some of them want to hear him." Miss Paget attacked her lobster. I asked Wilfrid afterwards whether he had not thought her behaviour a bit strange. "Wouldn't you be strange?" he retorted. "If you owned Golden Miller?"

It is easy to dismiss my old friend's approach to the theatre as a casual acceptance of the fact that a play was written to enable him to get the laughs and, if it failed to provide, would have to be rewritten — preferably by himself, often on the

first night and always at matinees. I remember a matinee of one of Mr William Douglas Home's pieces, when Wilfrid interpolated an entire scene at a crucial moment of the plot while he pondered what to call a new yearling which had mysteriously come into his possession after the curtain had risen. Fellow members of the cast were finally and in desperation persuaded to suggest names suitable to its breeding, but Wilfrid laughed them to scorn, remarking the only possible solution was Coal Scuttle. Then, enormously over-satisfied with his resourcefulness, he returned to the play. "Where were we?" he demanded. "We must finish this or some of them will be missing their tea."

He came of a generation of actors who often, and sometimes it must be said mistakenly, had no great respect for playwright or director. He and I



used to prefer our own interpretations of the mood of the evening. We both stood down-stage and stared moodily out into the auditorium in search of a friendly face and a laugh. On the other hand, there were times when my friend gracefully conceded, and acted the play for all he was worth. He was worth a good deal. Who can forget his performance in *The Reluctant Donatiste* or his dancing with Rex Harrison in the film of *My Fair Lady*, or his wonderfully touching portrayal of the Irish priest in *The Prodigal Daughter*? He appeared successfully as Britannicus in *Caesar and Cleopatra* and in the tiny part of Euphrates in *Antony and Cleopatra* during the Olivier season at the Swan. He was an enthusiast for performing in Shakespeare never recovered from the shock of being asked to rehearse whilst the Derby was being run.

I once persuaded him to play in one of my own concoctions, *Hippo Dancing*. The play opened in Dublin fairly well but not nearly well enough for Wilfrid: in those days he toured with a Rolls-Royce and a minder. They were both fairly old, but the minder was a former girlfriend and she appeared in my bedroom "the morning after" with an ultimatum: "Unless Wilfrid's part is radically improved by Blackpool, I shall withdraw him." That gave me a week. Wilfrid, of course, never referred to my dilemma.

I gave him the new scene on the plane, he agreed to rehearse, and we played it to stony silence on the Friday. On the way back to our hotel, Wilfrid stopped the motor and got out. He is surely not leaving me like this? I asked myself, but he had alighted to be sick. For the first time, I realized how much he cared. We gave the scene a new beginning next night and had no trouble with it thereafter. When the run finished Wilfrid announced his intention of leaving for the States. "I really cannot stand another winter in England with the income tax and Violetta" — here he named his new fiancée. Then he apologized. "That was a very childish thing to say about the income tax."

He once made a brief but unnecessary appearance in the Bankruptcy Court, where even the Official Receiver fed him the line. "If you cannot tell us how you spent such a large sum in so short a time, perhaps you could tell us what will win the Gold Cup at Ascot this afternoon, since I understand you would already like to be on your way?" "Of course, dear fellow," Wilfrid rejoined, and surprisingly named the winner. "Only have a small bet," he cautioned. "We don't want to have to change places, do we?"

Television
Freedom eroded

Francisco Died in Bed (Channel 4) and that, say the Spanish Left, betokens trouble. Last night's edition of 20/20 Vision went on a tour of the battlefield which has now been thrown up between the forces of freedom and repression, as exemplified by the Basque separatists on one side and the Ministry of the Interior on the other.

It might be argued that the Basques, like the Welsh nationalists, are too wild and romantic to represent the common or garden sort of freedom most of us would settle for; it might also be argued that that area is moving towards a situation unpleasantly reminiscent of Ulster.

What this brief essay by Sarah Hargreaves did suggest, however, was that the anti-terrorist measures adopted to deal with ETA are poised to strike at routine civil liberties in the country as a whole. In a recent hunt for an ETA kidnapper victim 16,000 houses were searched in one sector of Madrid; from June 1 all changes in occupancy of flats and houses will have to be notified to the police.

The lawyers and journalists interviewed agreed virtually unanimously that Franco's wish to leave the country "well sewn up" had so far come true: with the forces, police, courts and press largely controlled by his ideological heirs, there was little scope for the liberties promised by the new regime to flourish.

Young men told of the treatment they had received at the hands of the police ("They got me to kneel down... started kicking me in the groin..."), a lawyer catalogued the incidence of the most popular techniques (plastic bags over heads, electrodes to genitals, sleep deprivation) and the Minister of the Interior, when asked if there was now any police brutality, said "Broadly speaking, no."

We met a journalist who was about to go inside for 18 months because he had written satirically in support of the Basque cause. We met another journalist in exile who had publicly named two leading Rightists subsequently murdered by ETA: the line between journalistic freedom and criminal incitement is in this part of the world not easy to draw.

The danger of providing programme was, inevitably, implicated parties in the 26-minute format precluded any effective account of the views of the country as a whole, which was a pity.

Two years ago today Robert Nema Marley died in bed. "So who was this natural mystic man with a gentle voice and revolution in his songs?" asked the *Evening Standard* voice-over. The question was largely rhetorical, and the evidence adduced was mostly familiar, but this film fittingly celebrated him. Friends and relations reminisced movingly, archive clips relayed the atmosphere of the performances, but there was no hint of the extraordinary power of Marley's music at its best.

Michael Church

Concert

Philharmonia/
Handley
Festival Hall

If I have a secret vice, it is that I like Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. It is scarcely possible to admit such things in sophisticated circles, and yet each time I hear the piece it sounds well put together, utterly sure of its melancholic yearning, self. As the American critic Paul Rosenfield wrote, "From it there flows the sadness distilled by all things that are a little useless... Rachmaninov comes among us like a very charming and amiable ghost."

Perhaps we need a few more ghosts among today's music-makers. At any rate, I could have done with something slightly less tangible than John Lill as soloist in Tchaikovsky's performance. He attacked the pounding chords of the first movement as if dispensing machine-gun fire, and hit the octave melody of the Adagio with a brazen clang, giving each note an equally acid tone. He was certainly sure where he was going all the time (my affection for the work survived playing in a performance where the soloist lost himself hopelessly among the haze of sequences), but when he arrived the noise was not very pleasant.

Vernon Handley, conducting, had a splendid sweep and

authority to his beat, now that Sir Adrian Boult is dead, it is good to know that someone will keep alive that magisterial use of a vast baton controlled by only the most delicate of wrist movements. Handley has been consistently underrated; in what he does best he is undemonstrative but highly effective. Catching a record of Elgar's First Symphony in the car the other day, I thought the control of detail and pacing so fine that I felt sure it must be Boult's recording, but it was Handley's. His *Enigma Variations* in the second half of this concert was similarly firm: I liked the deliberate pace of the opening, markings carefully observed, the gentle, unhurried pace of Variation 3 and the expansive but ever-moving "Nimrod".

Handley is very good at punctuation: in the finale, he made a long, deep pause before launching into figure 70, which gathered together the accumulated tension admirably. But it was noticeable that — apart from outstanding cello solos (also fine in the *William Tell* Overture at the start) and brittle, thrummed timpani — Handley did not draw especially good playing from the Philharmonia. There were some ragged string entries, and the performance generally lacked that electric charge which distinguishes the great from the good.

Nicholas Kenyon

Cinema

David Robinson
reports from the
Cannes FestivalLadies of
pleasure

Cannes is turning out to be an actress's festival this year. I have already written from the film's Budapest premiere about the extraordinary playing of Mari Torocsik and Lili Monori as the peasant mother and daughter in Zoltan Korda's *Forbidden Relations*. The film, which treats with rare warmth and compassion the problems of a remote rural community in which a brother and sister incestuously live, as man and wife and loving parents, is due to open in London soon.

Then we have seen Isabelle Adjani in *L'Été meurtrier*, directed by Jean Becker, son of Jacques Becker, one of the great French directors of the Forties and Fifties. As it rambles on its somewhat tedious way, from bucolic comedy to psychological case history and finally to murder melodrama, it is all too evident that the film has been adapted — and not adapted enough — from a novel. (The original author, Sebastian Japoisot, in fact wrote the screenplay.)

But Adjani, even though she would have benefited from a directorial curb sometimes, displays quite unexpected range as the heroine — the village slut whose shameless cheek conceals a depth of old psychological injuries. As she says, "It's easier to hide my sadness than my ass."

If Adjani is an overdoer, Tess Harper, who makes her screen debut in Bruce Beresford's first American picture, *Tender Mercies*, is an effective under-player. She is more than good enough to provide Robert Duvall with an equal and complementary partner, even while Duvall proves again what a remarkable actor he is, this time in a role wholly unlike the martinet father in *The Great Santini*.

Duvall plays a world-worn Country-Western singer who has kicked the habits both of booze and ambition. Tess Harper is a young widow with a small son and a tumble-down motel in the Texas desert. The past continues to intrude, but somehow these two make a future together.

There is hardly anything to the film besides the performance, and the Australian director's response to a dusty little corner of Texas. These apart, it is as small a slice of life as ever made a 90-minute film.

Catherine Deneuve and Susan Sarandon have a rough-and-tumble love scene in a British film, *The Hunger*, though it ends in tears since Deneuve is a vampire and only interested in Sarandon's blood.

Tony Scott's first feature is as chic as a déodorant commercial and not much more substantial. The story is a load of mystic mumbo-jumbo about ancient Egyptian magic, vampirism, reincarnation, accelerated ageing and disintegrating zombies; but the flashy images, flashier cutting and general adolescent solemnity are supposed to take your mind off that.

David Bowie co-stars, but there is not much for the fans, since he disappears behind octogenarian make-up after the first reel or so and is soon popped into a coffin. Busy Bowie will be seen again in Cannes, however, as the star of Nagisa Oshima's *Merry Christmas*, Mr Lawrence.

Theatre

Noble attempt to shut the gates of war

The Trojan War
Will Not Take Place
Lyttelton

If it was the National Theatre that halted Giraudoux's British career dead in its tracks with the ill-fated 1960s production of *Amphytrion 38*, the same organization now makes amends with Harold Pinter's resonant revival of the play which first made Giraudoux's British reputation.

As *Tiger at the Gates* (Christopher Fry's first title for *La Guerre de Troie n'aura pas lieu*) the 1955 Apollo production struck Kenneth Tynan as "the final comment on the stupidity of war" and won over the London public in spite of a dramatic technique based on the tirade, non-psychological characterization, a preference for debate rather than action and the aloof contemplation of great events from long range. These, and the other hitherto resisted elements of French classical dramaturgy, suddenly became acceptable to the West End.

One reason is that Giraudoux was committed to comedy (almost, it seems, as a moral obligation) and that his treatment of the Helen affair had a passing resemblance to Shaw. More to the point, he had something to say about the nature of war which crossed the cultural boundaries of post-1945 Europe as easily as I



Brewster Mason: an imposingly feeble Priam

expect it to do again in these pre-nuclear times. In brief, Giraudoux the former diplomat viewed the conflict of nations as a celestially arranged prize fight, with the combatants carefully dieted and exercised to peak condition and then let loose to destroy each other for the delight of the Olympian ringside observers.

The Trojan War expresses no hope that this state of affairs

can ever be altered. What it does do is expose the operation of fate in the hope that politicians, priests, intellectuals and the public at large will be less taken in by the sanctions that have led the nations of history sleep-walking into a trap prepared by the powers above.

For this reason, Giraudoux's temperamental coldness, and his choice of a location removed from the direct spectre of action, fits perfectly with the content and purpose of the work. Rewriting Homeric legend, he brings Hector back from one ruinously victorious campaign determined to close the gates of war for ever.

In this he almost succeeds. He persuades Paris to release Helen, he outwits the bellicose Hector, he brings back from one ruinously victorious campaign determined to close the gates of war for ever.

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and, although Martin Jarvis cuts a less than heroic figure (sometimes he even suggests Walter Mitty at the Court of King Priam), the authority brings Hector through at moments such as these. In between the peaks, where author and character merge, there remain substantial tracts of diagrammatic dialogue where the comedy, unsupported by realistic portraiture, is uphill work.

The opening scenes, with Cassandra (a governessy Julie LeGrand) and Andromache (Marjorie Bland) swapping gloomy and hopeful comment on the future, awaken a dread of a stiff neo-classic evening ahead. Pinter fortunately keeps his nerve and adds no stylistically alien mannerisms, and the author is not long in replacing him. You accept the style for what it is, and human voices begin resounding through the marble surfaces.

Most obviously this happens in the case of Nicole Page's Helen, delicate as an eyeline and amazingly conveying the essence of that supposedly unplayable demi-goddess of becoming the secret fantasy of all who set eyes on her. Other gradually enriching performances come from Annette Crosbie's belligerently pacifist Hecuba and Brewster Mason's imposingly feeble Priam. A certain sense of cost-cutting prevails over Eileen Dietz's monumental two-purpose set, but at this address that is no bedding.

Irving Wardle

written, endearing and funny until a shyly lubricious account of the Jerusalem Lilies (they needed 11 lovelies to make the film) and how their improbable athletics got out of hand.

But Mr Ellenbogen's own performance never ceases to be humorously lovable and spontaneous while showing total technical assurance as imaginary truncheons assail him from above and fleas from below. It implicitly condemns all the cells of horror in black and white Africa, and impressed me at every moment that, for all its protagonist's filming, it is live theatre, as live as theatre can be.

Anthony Masters

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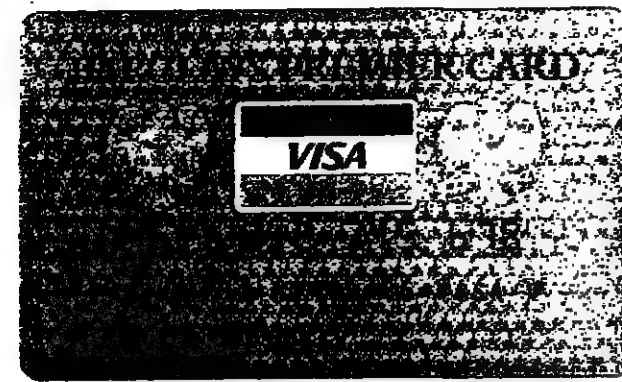
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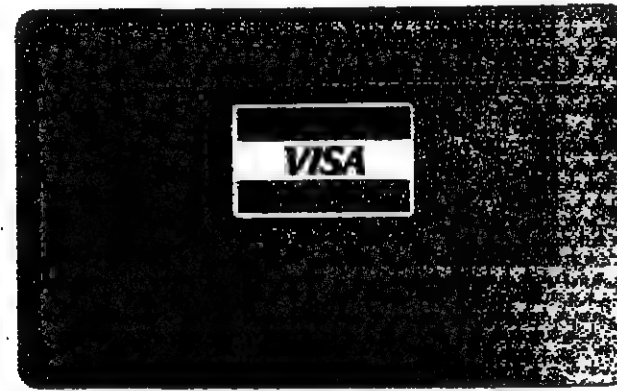
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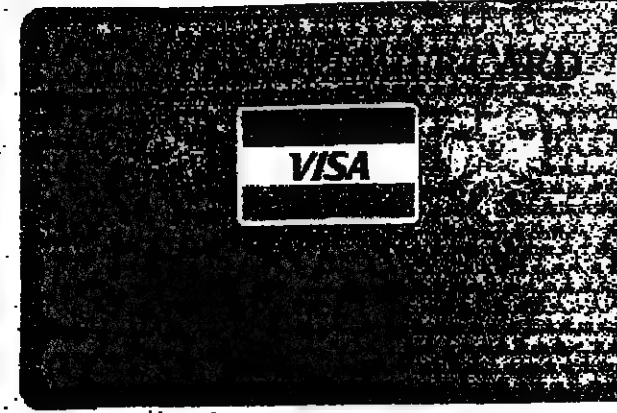
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THE TIMES DIARY

Monopoly money

Waddingtons, the original Monopoly-makers, are looking for owners of the first game they put on the market, an initially unsuccessful pastime called *Invexion*. Now 50 years old, the game involved making words with cards around a number of whist and bridge formats. Holders of first issue models will have to prove the veracity of their claims by producing the accompanying 65-page rule book. Games in good condition could be worth as much as £20, and the company is offering a collection of its more recent games in payment. One of these is called *My Word*, symptomatic of our times, it only runs to four-letter words.

Lost horizons

This week's *Economist* carries a report, aptly titled "Done-a-bunker Hunt", about Keith Hunt, "who disappeared from Britain last month leaving debts estimated at £18m". It mentions his now wound-up companies, including one called *Future Index*. Yet just six pages further on there is a half-page advertisement for that same *Future Index* inviting *Economist* readers to "Widen your Financial Horizons." "The advertisement had been booked but was officially stopped by the advertisers", *The Economist*'s advertising department said yesterday. "It just slipped through. We shall not be charging them for it." Keith Hunt, wherever you are, that at least is one little bit of money you do not owe.

Stop press

British journalists visiting Sweden as guests of the Foreign Ministry last week had nearly an hour with Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, 45 minutes each with the foreign and defence ministers, in mid-submarine crisis; and 45 minutes with the King and Queen, for which they had the gall to be 10 minutes late. Swedish journalists on a reciprocal visit hosted by the Central Office of Information were offered a meeting with Lord Carrington, a trip to Parliament and a tour of redevelopment sites in Liverpool. With telephone lines between London and Stockholm sizzling, Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, found he could spare them 15 minutes. One of the Swedes said afterwards: "We were very pleased they kept our evenings free."

● Times are hard but I did not expect Rank Xerox to be reduced to naturism. A letter from the company apologising for more than five months' delay in paying £300 for a trade-in ends: "Please bare with us for a little longer".

Quid pro quo

Sunday Telegraph readers are wasting their money and should definitely switch to the *News of the World*. My proof for this confident assertion is two advertisements for *The Ordnance Survey Atlas of Great Britain* placed by the Literary Guild. One, in this week's *Telegraph Sunday Magazine*, offered the book for £1 plus 95p post and packing. The other, in the same day's *Sunday* with the *News of the World*, advertised the same book for 50p and with only 45p to add for post and packing. Worse still, the promise is for 40 pages of new maps in the 50p offer, mysteriously shorn to 35 at twice the price. The choice is clear, and our thanks go to the PHSoot who spotted the difference.

Dim view

Andrew Faulds, thespian MP for Warley East, suspects London Transport are out to rob us all. Passing through Paddington, he bought a 40p underground ticket from a machine marked: "This machine accepts 5p, 10p, 20p and 50p coins." He put in 50p, and got a ticket, but no change. When he protested at the booking office, another but dimly lit man pointed out to him: "Exact fare only to obtain ticket." "I find the introduction of this new system totally deceptive and dishonest," blusters Faulds, "and I trust that the management will immediately put right this public theft of passengers' monies."

The truth game

Do not believe that television personalities are essentially shallow. Hilary Lawson, the former deputy chief executive of ailing TV-am who left soon after Angela Rippon and Anna Ford, is now writing a book on philosophy. The subject is reflexivity, which he says is "the problem that arises when you want to say there is no truth which means there is truth". Experience at Camden Lock no doubt provides an empirical advantage.

Eight Cumbrians will be spending many of their nights in freezer centres between now and next March, with the blessing of William Whitelaw. Sleeping in temperatures as low as -40° centigrade, they are preparing to become the first Britons to climb Everest via the West Ridge route from China, and the Home Secretary, MP for Penrith and the Border, is their patron. The climbers, who range in age from 30 to 43, will, if successful, also be the first from this country to conquer the peak without oxygen supplies. During their training on the Lakeland peaks, they could do worse than nip over to Wigton for a word with Everest veteran, Chris Bonington.

Can the EEC ever be a fair deal?

Mrs Thatcher has no reason to be defensive in the coming election about her handling of the EEC. She has managed to cut Britain's Euro-bill by three quarters between the end of 1979 and the start of 1983. That is a much bigger improvement than Britain achieved in the Wilson renegotiation of 1974-75.

The cut has been achieved because of Mrs Thatcher's aggressive tactics, notably at the Dublin summit in 1979; Lord Carrington's good sense in persuading her to accept a deal she disliked in May 1980; and a remarkable fluke. The fluke was that, in 1981 and 1982, EEC farm spending increased far more slowly than anybody expected.

However, as Mrs Thatcher is likely to discover if she attends next month's EEC summit in Stuttgart, her run of luck seems to be at an end. She appears to think that the summit will approve a cut of some two thirds in Britain's contribution to the budget for 1983. That is most unlikely. The other member states resent the fact that the rebates paid to Britain in the past three years have reduced its EEC bill by 75 per cent, instead of the cut of two thirds that the May 1980 deal was designed to produce. So, they argue, the repayment to Britain in 1983 should be correspondingly smaller.

In any case there is little dispute that the EEC is fast running out of cash (mainly because farm spending is out of control again, rising by 35 per cent in the past 12 months). And the French and Germans are increasingly anxious about the cost of letting Spain and Portugal into the club.

The danger is that this row will eclipse a far more important issue for Britain: the future shape of the Community's budget. Since Britain joined the EEC, it has been a net payer to Brussels, mainly because agriculture has continued to absorb

the bulk of EEC spending. As a net food importer, Britain loses twice over, because British food imports are overpriced and because Britain pays more into the farm budget than British farmers get back.

The EEC commission has now proposed a series of financial reforms designed, in part, to remedy this imbalance. Its main suggestions are that:

● The present ceiling on the EEC's revenue raised from VAT should be lifted. This would stop the Community going broke and would enable it to pay for new policies, for example to cut youth unemployment. The ceiling would go up to 1.4 per cent of the first stage.

● A slice of these VAT payments should be raised at a varying rate calculated to make rich countries

to tax each country purely according to its relative wealth. This would be simpler and fairer than the complex commission plan. The trouble is that it would involve a revolution in the EEC's present tax system, which was constructed with great difficulty in the late 1960s. Other member states would not wear that.

The commission's proposals represent a reasonable second-best solution. But they have two weaknesses. First, the commission has not developed many convincing ideas for "new policies" on which to spend the extra income.

Already several existing EEC policies, such as the regional policy, are not genuine policies but merely devices for inefficient attempts to redistribute cash between countries to make up for the inequitable

British taxpayers (the most scandalous aspect of the Thatcher government's EEC policy).

Besides, even if the commission's tax proposals were accepted, Britain's net budget bill would be cut by less than half (and its plans to spend more in Britain is only a hope). This is not likely to be acceptable to any British government.

The odds are, therefore, that British ministers will turn their eyes to an idea now being considered in Paris, and known as *"arbitrage des soldes"*—the smoothing out of the balances. Under this scheme, a ceiling would be set to the amount by which any country could profit or lose from the EEC budget. Thus, in practice, each country would contribute roughly as much as it got out of the budget.

This would be simple to operate, and could be introduced without raising the level of VAT. It would also have the advantage that it would be easier to develop sensible EEC policies, since individual countries would look at new proposals on their merits and not on the basis of what national profit or loss might result from them.

The major snag is that it would be very difficult for the EEC then to develop any policies explicitly designed to redistribute money from rich countries to poor ones. Italy, Ireland and Greece—and, in the future, Spain and Portugal—would lose heavily from such a change. However, *"arbitrage des soldes"* would serve the interests of France, Britain and Germany. And as they are the three most powerful countries in the EEC, and the only three countries likely to be net payers under the present system, the odds are that they will get their way.

Stephen Milligan

The author is European editor of *The Economist*.
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'There is little disposition to be generous to Britain'

with lots of farmers pay more. Denmark and France, for example, would pay extra and Britain would pay less. This variable slice would finance all farm spending over and above the amount equivalent to a third of the total EEC budget.

● Future increases in VAT should be approved by the 10 member governments and by a three-fifths majority in the European Parliament—but not, as now, by national parliament. This suggestion stands no chance of being accepted, and is an attempt to appease the European Parliament (which is seriously thinking of sacking the whole EEC commission later this year).

The commission's tax proposals are clearly not ideal. The most logical way to finance the EEC budget, as Sir Geoffrey Howe argued in his Hague speech two years ago, is

incidence of the farm policy. There are only a few areas—of which overseas aid is one—where there is a clear economy of scale in having an EEC policy rather than 10 national policies (the cost of the Community's aid programme in investment costs employed per dollar disbursed, is significantly lower than that of national aid programmes).

Second, the commission has not devised an effective way to halt the growth of farm spending. Although its proposals would make gains from farm spending pay more for it, this would not necessarily mean that the spending would be cut—especially since farm ministers have shown little regard in the past for the impact of their decisions on national budgets. Witness Mr Peter Wilson's policy over the past four years of regularly putting the interests of British farmers above those of

Eighty-two years after the first edition, the great dictionary's fourth appears

Words that maketh the family Chambers

Edinburgh has two streets named after the union of Scotland and England—the Thistle and the Rose. There's a building in Thistle Street where, between the mounted calligraphy of Sir Walter Scott and the first dictionary definition of "zero option", you can find more than 160 years of publishing history.

The methods and the memorabilia of the house of Chambers—and the present generation of a modest dynasty—are still rooted in the heart of the capital, survivors of that golden age of Edinburgh publishing which nurtured figures like William Creech, Archibald Constable, William Blackwood and the brothers William and Robert Chambers.

W. and R. Chambers brothers' most celebrated product, *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*, goes into its fourth edition today. Dictionaries gestate and mutate slowly, although the postwar years and the hectic evolution of postwar language have accelerated the process. The first edition appeared in 1901 and the next two in 1932 and 1972, with a supplement in 1977. But Chambers's interest in lexicology dates back to 1868, when they published a small etymological dictionary.

They also produced an "English dictionary" in 1898 which George Bernard Shaw used with enthusiasm. "PS", he writes in a letter to the firm, "My Chambers's dictionary (my favourite of half a dozen) is dated 1898. In there a later edition—unspoiled?" The question suggests more than polite interest. He was probably hoping for a free copy.

In nearly two centuries W. and R. Chambers have explored most of the available avenues of publishing: general fiction, children's books, educational books and periodicals. They still produce a small educational list, but the fortunes of the family and the future of the firm are now invested in their reference books, of which *Chambers Twentieth Century* is the flagship. Tony Chambers, the company's chairman and managing director, says: "It helps to have a name which is also a trade mark."

It helps so much that on the Indian sub-continent, where *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary* is the bible of self-improvers, he was waved through the Bangladesh customs on the power of his name alone.

His son, Michael, is also in publishing, although not yet with Chambers. Mr Chambers hopes he will join the company soon.

An uninitiated line of Chambers men has run the business since Robert, a passionate bibliophile, opened a small bookshop in Leith Walk at the age of 16. He was joined by William, a bookseller's apprentice, and within a few years they had started to print books as well as sell them. But their early life was characterized by the kind of crushing hardship which was more inclined to break spirits than inspire enterprise.

Robert lived mainly on tea. "For three or four years of that time," he wrote, "I never got a regular dinner except on Sundays." When he was



Tony Chambers, great-grandson of one of the founding brothers, and on his left Betty Kirkpatrick, the dictionary's editor, with some of their staff.

joined by William, the two of them slept on the floor of the shop with piles of books for pillows.

An early history of the company has a hint of Thatcherian rhetoric in its description of the brothers' rise from rags to riches: "It has often happened in Scotland that poor boys have become famous men, and it will often happen again, but when one considers these boys—William became an L.D. of Edinburgh University, Robert of St Andrews; Robert was Master of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh; William was twice Lord Provost, and after twice refusing a knighthood was later persuaded to accept a baronetcy, the conferring of which was unfortunately prevented by his untimely death, untimely in that it happened just before the reopening of St Giles' Cathedral, which he had so magnificently restored—when one considers the early privations and the ultimate triumph of sterling worth and character, the story of William and Robert seems more like a fairytale than most stories of the kind."

Today Tony Chambers, the great-grandson of Robert (who was himself a writer of distinction and friend of Lamb, Carlyle, de Quincey, Scott and Browning) lives in the affluent Edinburgh suburb of Barnton and, at 65, is an expert and active skier. He is also enough of a businessman to recognize that fairy tales don't have much of a market during recessions, and he has "rationalized and consolidated just in time."

The Chambers operation has been trimmed of general fiction and children's books and the company, which does its own warehousing and distribution, now employs about 30 people. There are six editorial staff, all focused on the reference books. Chambers's energetic dictionary editor, Betty Kirkpatrick, also "does the educational books when I can find the time."

The assistant editors work in an amiable collective in a large, bright room where, for diversion, they can gaze into the bedrooms of the

George Hotel or study the social history of the graffiti on the round table. The surface of this old table has been used both as drawing board and autograph book by generations of Chambers women, children and visitors. Jacobus Chambers left a flag and a portrait of Britannia in 1895. William Chambers Junior etched an Australian steamer in 1863. Tucky Chambers's mark was a harp and the writer Charles McKay added a nightingale.

Loyalists in the company are strong, fed by its sense of history and continuity of its family involvement. Betty Kirkpatrick, who joined in 1966, is now also a director. Of the assistant editors, Catherine

Some Scrabble players can tell you which page lists a certain word

Schwartz's connexion goes back 30 years and Rachel Sherrard has been working for them "on and off since 1969". Anne Seaton's appointment in 1976 is recent by Chambers's standards and the two young men, George Davidson and John Simpson, have a mere nine years' service between them.

How do you find new words for a dictionary? Methods range from the charmingly informal to the board game. There is, of course, a home between Chambers and the academic world and it is not unusual for an editor to spend a whole day trawling down the definition of one word. The words themselves are picked up by the vigilance of the editors through the variety of their reading material. "Magazines like *Cosmopolitan* are useful," Betty Kirkpatrick says. "Where else would you get to know about 'toxic shock syndrome'?"

The Times is read daily by everyone, "although we take it in turns to read the *New Scientist*". Each editor has a pet subject. Anne Seaton is acknowledged as the classics expert and George Davidson

is strong on linguistics and phonetics. John Simpson lays claim to sport and jazz. Catherine Schwartz to music and Rachel Sherrard, wife of a minister, knows a lot about religion.

Betty Kirkpatrick, married to a doctor, had ready access to the language of medicine, but her own strength is an eclectic and encyclopaedic mind. "You have to turn yourself into a kind of sponge," she says, however, given up doing crossword puzzles and is beginning to feel oppressed by Scrabble. Chambers is the reference dictionary for the National Scrabble Championship and National Scrabble Club Tournament, which she chairs. Her knowledge of her own dictionary, she says, is poor thing beside the awesome memories of Scrabble players.

"Some of them can actually tell you which page lists a certain word. They read bits of the dictionary every night, although not necessarily for the meanings. Their object is to know the word, not the definition."

Chambers is as proud of its idiosyncrasies as it is of its statistics. It contains more language references and more definitions than any other single-volume dictionary, including its main competitor, the *Concise Oxford*, and the new edition, of course makes it more up to date. "Ra-ra skirt, multilateralist, total allergy syndrome, kidology and 'yomp' are among their exclusive entries."

Dictionary watchers are particularly attached to Chambers's "humorous definitions" and howl with protest in the letters' columns of newspapers if any of their favourites disappear. By public demand "eccliar" ("long in shape but short in duration"), "perpetrate", "piet" and "picture-storer" (look them up) have been restored for 1983, and a "man-eater" has been added: "A woman given to chasing, catching and devouring men."

Julie Davidson

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Ronald Butt

Labour's great unmentionable

The unions' attack on the last Labour government was the principal cause of Mr James Callaghan's downfall. But Labour still needs some sort of policy because it rejects the anti-inflationary discipline that enables Mrs Thatcher to do without one. Labour says that Mrs Thatcher has a pay policy in the shape of unemployment and the fear of it. It is, Labour implies, only because there are now too many people chasing too few jobs that unions have stopped being unreasonable about pay.

This is only half the truth. For the other half we must ask why the workers were unreasonable before Mrs Thatcher's time, thus provoking the attempted pay restraints which they then resisted. The answer is clear. In those days money was easy come, easy go. Its value was impermanent and evanescent. So, as governments inflated and depreciated the value of money, unions increased their demands to make good lost purchasing power, which caused the currency to depreciate even faster. If today, unions are more reasonable it is not simply for fear of unemployment but because the fall in inflation diminishes the urge to make unreasonable demands.

Labour's policies, however, are highly inflationary. There would be a huge increase of at least £10,000m in government spending, £6,000m of it borrowed from the pension funds and other institutions, supposedly by agreement, in a dash for expansion.

To prevent money hurdling out of Britain in consequence, exchange controls would be imposed. To prevent imports being sucked into Britain by easy money, there would be tariffs and import quotas. But the "siege economy" against which Mr Denis Healey unavailingly warns his party would not be enough.

Labour also needs a pay policy, which it has lacked since Mr Callaghan's defeat. The left bitterly resists the idea in the name of free collective bargaining. Various policy documents have therefore skirted around the subject. Mr Peter Shore's Programme for Recovery admitted that there was "no gainsaying the arising of inflationary pressures" from its expansion policies, and conceded that it would therefore be necessary to "contain the costs which prompt the increase in prices". Since it was admitted that two-thirds of total costs consisted of wage and salary costs, increases in which could not "all" be absorbed in the remaining one-third of costs, the implication was clear. There would have to be some sort of pay restraint. But how?

The only answer we have is that the annual "economic assessment" (NEA) which Labour wants to be agreed between government, unions and management would cover profits, prices, earnings, investments and social benefits. Producing this would take six to nine months, and including preparation and adjustments would be a year-long process. But no hint has been given in any document of how a Labour government would cope without any kind of wage restraint in its first year while awaiting the agreed plan, or on how the plan for wages would be enforced in practice. Mr Healey is sensitive to the

problem. On Sunday, after an election meeting of union and Labour leaders, he came on television to be interviewed on *Face the Press*, and tried to present the restoration of an incomes policy as the keystone of Labour economic policy. "Every government has finished up with one produced huffer-mugger in a crisis," he said. Labour had to avoid that. "We shall have to carry out this assessment within weeks of winning the next election... (and) have that agreement in place when next year's pay round begins at the end of August... We cannot afford to dodge the issue for 12 months..."

Mr Healey preferred to speak of the "assessment" rather than of the now almost indecent "incomes policy" but what he meant was clear. Labour desperately needs to devise some means of controlling pay by agreement quickly. But by admitting this, he has created even more questions than he has answered.

How can an elaborate process intended to cover so much more than pay (indeed, every aspect of economic activity) and designed to take from nine to 12 months, be completed in only two? If it is only the pay element that is to be completed in two months with or without decisions on prices, investments and social benefits—but without a full assessment of the economy, what is the difference between this and the old prices and incomes policy?

How would the NEA's allocation of resources between profit, pay, investments and benefits be enforced on the unions (whether in two or nine months) if they did not agree to the Government's wishes and pressed for higher wages to make good purchasing power lost by renewed inflation?

Last week, Mr Clive Jenkins reassured his ASTMS union conference against fears of a backdoor incomes policy. The NEA, he said, meant "no statutes, no norms, no curbs."

I can see that it could mean no statutes. It might mean no specific norms overall. But I cannot see how it means no curbs since an order of priorities must mean curbs for some so as to allow rises for others.

Mr Healey and Mr Shore know that their inflationary policies require the agreed control of incomes if they are to stand a chance of avoiding high interest rates, a new appeal to the IMF or a totally controlled socialist state. They do not know how to get it.

The left does not want an incomes policy. It does not mind if the government inflates until the social bubble bursts, for it hopes that out of the ensuing upheaval will come a socialist state with the fully everything including everyone's pay will be controlled from the centre.

If the democratic socialists like Mr Healey knew how to get an incomes policy to avoid this they would say so in plain language. Their language is obscure because they do not know. They can offer only what was regurgitated last time. In this as in so much there are two Labour Parties and two Labour policies. The voter must decide for himself which (if either) he wants and which he thinks he would get if Labour were given power. Mr Healey cannot tell him.

Ross Davies

In praise of the sweet, lovable cockroach

In a world which seems to have served notice to quit upon nearly every animal from the seahorse to the zorbil, inclusive, it should be more heartening than it somehow is that *dictyoptera* scuttle about this country as never before. And yet, despite the great variety, adaptiveness and industry of the breed, still the heart does not sing.

Rua, climb, fly though they may, it has to be said of the Brown-Banded as of the Smoky-Brown (to name but two of the six species) that, as wildlife goes, cockroaches lack oomph. They have now even been banned from Brooks's Club.

The cockroach is a single-minded creature, but to no avail. Still no prime time is offered to it by *Anglia TV* or the BBC Natural History Unit. Yet, having shuddered through a radio programme about the loving kindness of the wolf and gaged through a television account of how puff adders are good for me, I say it is not a good enough excuse for the neglect of cockroaches on the ground that they're bad for you.

Let me make it quite clear that I have no money riding on cockroaches. I have yet to clap eyes on a cockroach, alive or dead. But I have a friend who has seen lots. I am moved to these reflections on the ignominy of the cockroach solely because I have just put down an extremely piddling booklet on this and other conservation also-rans.

The booklet is *An A-Z of Household Pests*, at 60p, something of a bargain. On the one hand, not since the days of books like *Along the Limpopo With a Ferret* has there been much in the way of reading matter about creatures one may—or should, kill. On the other, the booklet is just the right size for swatting smaller game, although personally I would hesitate to take on a cockroach with it. My friend who has seen lots, an old Africa hand, favours a swift flip-flop. Not much use with puff adders, though.

The A-Z is published by the British Pest Control Association which, like any white hunter, treats its quarry with respect. "Control of cockroaches", the booklet says, "is seldom easy".

Yet it is all too easy to overlook merit in disagreeable forms of wildlife, and in the case of cockroaches, spectacularly so. This will explain why I took up their case

with the pest controllers' president, Miss Frances McKim. Was there, I asked her, more to cockroaches than food poisoning? Miss McKim, I have to say, failed neither me nor them.

Here is a lady who has chased cockroaches around New York bedrooms and raced cockroaches down Bourbon Street, *Dictyoptera*, she was able to tell me, have one hitherto-unremarked property. They embody old national enemies.

Of what we British know as the German Cockroach, Miss McKim said: "In Germany, they're not called German Cockroaches, but Russian Cockroaches, and I'm sure that in Russia they're called something else."

Germany, presumably, at least until 1945, followed by compulsory renaming to American and then Chinese. And with President Reagan said to be limbering up for a second term, and a new broom in the Kremlin, I wouldn't be surprised if even now Mr Andropov weren't signing a decree ordering the cockroaches to become American again. Which might cause comment in this country, because we already have an American Cockroach. "They're bigger and better," says Miss McKim.

All this geopoliticking may make cockroaches more controversial, but I doubt whether it would also render them more lovable. Far from it. The A-Z reveals that apart from being "unable to survive out of doors in the British climate," the bugs can not only survive but thrive indoors in many, many places. In almost any large, centrally heated building, in fact. And since there are so many, many more of these, it follows there are so many, many more... well, you get the drift. The future of the cockroach is assured.

Now the cockroach is never going to detour the Smurf or the Womble in the nation's affections, but it would help if this versatile insect were to make that one impossible leap and live *à fresco*. Even the puff adder and the wolf manage to be both wholesome and loathsome, because at least they know their place.

Even in these ecological times and in this pet-loving country, how many conservationists would still speak kindly of the aardvark or the zorbil if herds of them, like cockroaches, were wont to gather in a chapp's club?



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ULTIMATE THINGS

It is a good moment, at the start of a general election campaign to be reminded by Alexander Solzhenitsyn - speaking more-over in London - what happens to a society when men have forgotten God. Though he was speaking about the evils of the Soviet system, he had harsh words to say about the decline of the West. He has noticed its unawareness of spiritual values, and its empty pews. He is astonished at the bias of the World Council of Churches who promote revolutionary movements in the Third World while remaining blind and deaf to the persecution of religion which is carried out relentlessly in the Soviet Union. For Dr Billy Graham, his predecessor in receipt of the Templeton Prize, who went to Moscow and said that he had noticed no persecution of religion, he merely asked for God to be the judge.

Fashionable opinion might be tempted to dismiss Solzhenitsyn as an embittered exile whose religious enthusiasm, born under Soviet oppression, is inappropriate for the liberal societies in the West. Fashionable opinion, as so often, would be wrong. True, he sees his important work as being the need to speak to those he left behind in mother Russia. True, he may have found it difficult to adjust to the wars-and-all aspects of a free society where self-indulgence, without a corresponding sense of responsibility, often threatens to become mere licence. But these are minor qualifications when compared to the core of his message about the importance of an awareness of

the spirit of man, and the danger of ignoring it.

Solzhenitsyn has lived in a society whose authorities are inspired solely by the materialist ideal. The Soviet system is based on the explicit denial of the rights of an individual, which is so grounded in the tradition of Judeo-Christian ethics. Where the state is sovereign, there can be no place for any other religion. There is no rational method to counter this kind of ideology. It can be challenged and contained by a corresponding act of faith, but only faith. To reason with such Marxist implacability is to concede to it.

What worries Solzhenitsyn is the lack of evidence that the West possesses this kind of faith. He starts with the organized churches. No wonder he is disappointed. Denominational religion has come to place so much emphasis on the idea of community - over against that of the individual within the community - that there is often little to choose between the ethos of collective theology and that of collective materialism. Perhaps this emphasis on the communal ideal springs from a basic sense of weakness in the churches, who hope it will make up for a lack of cohesion based simply on an assertion of faith.

But there is no substitute for faith, and faith can never be a collective endowment. The inner life of an individual is not determined by social factors, otherwise he would merely be a foot soldier in a statist's army. The trouble with the West, which Solzhenitsyn rightly per-

ceives, is that politicians, though not dedicated to the elimination of religion like the Soviet authorities are, nevertheless seem to be totally taken up with material and rational criteria in their evaluation of the conditions of society. The churches keep pace with them in order to appear "relevant", so that they too harness their energies to social and material factors. In so doing, the churches connive at a denial of the spirit, for religion means dependence on the irrational fact of an individual and intensively personal experience, rather than one conditioned by outward circumstances.

It is faith, not reason, which gives an individual the independent standpoint from which to evaluate the external conditions of his life, however adverse they may be. It is faith, not reason, which lays the foundation of freedom and autonomy. Man, as a social being, obviously cannot exist without belonging to some community, but he will not find the ultimate justification for his existence in that community.

The coming election campaign will be full of claim and counter claim about the cost of living, jobs, wages, weapons, houses. Here is the whole cornucopia of a society encouraged by its leaders to think solely in terms of the good things in life, all of which can be calibrated and then bid for in the auction room of politics. There are good things in life. There are bad things too. But it is the ultimate things which must not be forgotten.

STAYING ON TARGET

Government departments went on a small spending spree at the end of the last financial year. Central government borrowing was £2,750m in March, much higher than expected and a turnaround of more than £3,000m compared with the surplus in March, 1982. This had the usual effect on money supply growth. In April sterling M3 - the broad measure of money which continues to attract most comment - went up by almost 2 per cent, a rate of growth which, if continued, in future months, would cause a large overshoot on official targets. There is increasing suspicion and concern that the government is allowing financial control to slip ahead of the general election.

The anxiety should not be overdone. The burst of spending in March was intended to offset previous underspending. In the 1982-83 financial year as a whole the public sector borrowing requirement was £9,200m compared to an original estimate of £9,500m, while money supply growth of about 12 per cent was broadly consistent with the target of 8 to 12 per cent. Indeed, the final numbers confirm the feasibility of financial targets and tend to vindicate this approach to economic management.

There were, in any case, plausible arguments for a little carelessness with financial control at the end of 1982-83. Last autumn unemployment was rising quickly because of the intensification of the world recession, while the targets for both the budget deficit and the money supply were being met comfortably. The targets give the government some room for manoeuvre. It was understandable that a minor relaxation

should be engineered to promote domestic demand and ease the unemployment problem.

The episode demonstrates that the specification of targets does not reduce monetary policy to an exercise for computers and robots. There is still scope for political judgment and administrative discretion. The question now is whether the Government should have a strict or casual attitude towards the targets for the current financial year. These targets are for a public sector borrowing requirement of £8,500m and money supply growth of between 7 and 11 per cent.

The case for strict adherence to the guidelines is that, if they are missed, confidence in the Government's anti-inflation stand would be undermined. The loss of credibility might by itself complicate the task of inflation control because of the effect on foreign sentiment and so on the exchange rate. Moreover, the interest rate reductions already in place have contributed to a quite strong recovery in the economy. Signs of an upturn are still multiplying, with the March retail sales and housebuilding figures being the latest evidence.

But the recovery has not yet been sufficient to stem the rise in unemployment. There was an underlying increase of 22,000 in April, not significantly different from the typical monthly change in 1982. A further cut in interest rates seems to be justified to prevent the situation deteriorating further. With the building societies reporting longer mortgage queues because of a shortage of funds, there should be no doubt about the effectiveness of an interest rate cut as a stimulant to business activity. The societies' inflows of money

would strengthen, they would have no difficulty in lending it out and extra impetus would be given to housebuilding and certain types of consumption.

This method of assisting the recovery would not endanger the target for public sector borrowing in 1983-84 since, unlike the widely-cavassed proposal for fiscal restraint, there would be no effect on public expenditure. It might lead to an increase in the private sector's demand for bank credit and eventually this would cause an acceleration of money supply growth, but for the time being bank lending to the private sector is weak.

The position is finely balanced. But the case for a small reduction in interest rates seems more persuasive than the case for a small increase or no change. The bad April money supply figures reflect a once-for-all and clearly identifiable special influence, while the most recent rise in the unemployment total indicates the continuation of a genuine and deeply worrying trend. The Government might nevertheless be unwise to sanction a fall in clearing bank base rates before the election because the charge of financial gerrymandering would inevitably - and damagingly - be levelled against it.

It should be pointed out that the latest economic developments, with a simultaneous strengthening in business activity and decline in inflation, validate the Government's emphasis on financial targets. The Labour Party and the Alliance seem to have much less faith in them. It would be a tragedy if these methods of control were to be abandoned after the election, just as they are beginning to work and to be respected because they work.

THE ETHNIC QUESTION

Raising their eyes beyond June 9 for one last time, the about-to-be-scattered MPs of the Commons home affairs committee have bequeathed to the nation a report about a problem which will probably not arise before 1991. There may not be many votes in the next decade next month, but it is a sensible and persuasive report. Indeed, almost all significant public voices in the field have been persuaded already - persuaded that the national census ought in future to contain the question about ethnic origins timidly left off it in 1981. The only doubt seems to be whether the thousands of heads of households who will actually fill in the census forms can also be persuaded; and that is the thing that matters. If they refused or lied in large numbers, then the whole census might be impaired.

The more complex a society is, the more it needs reliable information about its own condition to allow sensible policy decisions to be made (and, in passing, the stronger the case becomes to keep the data up-to-date with mid-term censuses like the one proposed for 1986 and now under threat). Granted that the state is well-intentioned,

there is everything to be said for ensuring that it is well-informed on the basic characteristics of society. Yesterday's report shows graphically how effectively pressure-groups for ethnic minorities in other countries are able to use census data to win reforms from national and local administrations responsive to public opinion - and it shows how inadequate are the sample surveys and indirect inferences which have to serve as the basis for many important decisions affecting minorities in this country.

But how many members of those minorities do grant that the state is well-intentioned towards them? How many are quite sure that it will remain so, when it is responsive to a public opinion that often seems hostile? It would be better to drop the question than to risk significant distortion of the invaluable overall survey. The report stresses the importance of framing an ethnic question in ways that do not seem threatening, and of laying public reassurance on thick. It even proposes one gesture of conciliation which would only be justifiable as a last resort in face of an imminent threat of major disruption - a

promise to destroy the individual forms which carry names and addresses, once the generalized data has been fed into the computer. These forms, held for a century in a confidentiality which has never yet been betrayed, eventually become precious material for the historian.

It is right to take care over the framing and presentation of the question. Above all, it must be made clear that the question is about race as distinct from immigration. But in fact much of the committee's anxiety seems misconceived. The controversy which led to the omission of a question in 1981 turned largely on a test census done in Haringey, which was used by some pressure groups as an opportunity to play on minority fears. But in spite of all the campaigning the result did not show that such a question was widely unacceptable to racial minorities. Whether race relations improve or deteriorate in the next few years it is probable (and desirable) that minority communities will become more ready and more able to put census information to good use. Knowledge is power, and it is in their clear interest to secure and use it.

Union recognition and divers' strike

From the General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, That North Sea divers organised by the Professional Divers' Association have been taking direct action in order to win the right to trade union recognition with their employers, is a direct consequence of the Government's decision in 1980 to abolish the previously established balloting arrangements used to assist in the determination of recognition disputes. The balloting procedures were covered by section 11 of the Employment Protection Act, which was repealed by the 1980 Employment Act.

We strongly support the divers in their claim for recognition from their employers. There would seem to be no good reasons for Sub-Sea Offshore, the US company which employs them, to refuse to recognise them for bargaining purposes.

I write, however, to draw attention at the beginning of the run-up to the election to the curious attitude of this Government to trade union ballots.

Any casual follower of their industrial relations policies could easily have imagined that the Government is always in favour of balloting to ascertain workers' opinions as the only basis of legitimate action. However, when it came to the arrangements they inherited, under which people could ballot as to whether they wanted their employer to recognise their union or association for collective bargaining purposes, that ballot mechanism was happily scrapped.

As we predicted at the time, this would lead sooner or later to the aggravation of recognition disputes, and that is exactly what is happening over the divers' recognition claim at the present time.

I wonder if, in their election manifesto, the Conservative Party will propose, alongside any other balloting proposals they may have in mind, to reintroduce ballots for recognition claims?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LYONS, General Secretary,
Engineers' and Managers' Association,
Sutton House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey, Surrey,
May 10.

No easy exit

From Dr Mary Stopes-Roe

Sir, Two points come to mind with reference to Bernard Levin's philosophising and moralising (May 5) on the subject of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society's booklet.

A person in stressful circumstances who knows that she or he can control and use a means of ending the unpleasant situation is far more likely to put up with it for longer, if there are good reasons for so doing.

Further, and at a different level, I wonder about the good sense of suggesting that morals should be based on instincts. Self-preservation, or the "instinct" to stay alive, is powerful; so are many of our other "instincts", and we spend a good deal of moral energy combating them. On this basis his rather unappealing reference to the New Testament turns round and bites him.

But in talking about "self-deliverance" we are not concerned with instincts at all, but with very complex relationships between social and emotional forces taking place in that poorly understood entity, the "self".

I for one am reluctant to impose strictures on any one else's personal "self" decisions. I believe access to information and advice is far more likely to help than preaching to the desperate about vessels that must be brought to light.

Yours faithfully,
MARY STOPES-ROE,
155 Moor Green Lane,
Moseley, Birmingham.

Grand National fund

From Mrs B. M. Somerset-Jones

Sir, I see from today's edition (May 5) that insufficient funds were raised for the Grand National course at Aintree.

A golden opportunity was lost on the day of the big race. On the busiest day, Saturday, the weather was sunny and thousands of people were along to Aintree and did the customary walk round the course and picnic.

I am sure that many people would have made a donation had there been collecting boxes and perhaps the winners would have put in an extra pound or two.

It requires much more effort to write out and post a cheque once the event is over.

Yours faithfully,
B. M. SOMERSET-JONES,
Southmead, Mill Lane,
Widmore, Wiltshire.

Livening up Greenwich

From Mr Anthony Bailey and others

Sir, Mr Simon Jenkins's recent suggestion (Feature, April 28) that the South Bank be livened up with stalls and a street market is a good one. Here in Greenwich, on the council-owned Burney Street site in the town centre, not far from the greatest concentration of baroque architecture in Britain, a cheerful weekend open-air market has been one of the positive things to come out of failure - over some 22 years - to develop the site; other useful by-products of this neglect are a community-created garden, and a car park without which local shops, restaurants and the Greenwich Theatre would be severely crippled.

Now, however, Greenwich Council's Housing Committee has decided to apply for planning permission to develop the four-acre site entirely for suburban-scale housing, in the process doing away with car park and market.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cost-effectiveness and crowded jails

From Mr Martin Wright

Sir, Mr Whitlaw's humane concern to relieve prison overcrowding (Feature, May 5) does him credit; but he clings to the most costly and least effective policy for doing so, while professing support for non-custodial sanctions. In five years he is recruiting 2,300 more prison officers, many of whom will be paid well over £10,000 a year; but they supervise fewer than three prisoners on average.

On another page it is reported that in the next three years there will be only 150 more probation officers (earning rather less). But each of them commonly supervises at least 30 offenders in the community, besides numerous other duties including helping prisoners and their families.

With 7,000 fewer prisoners the prison system would be down to about its official capacity and it is generally agreed that at least that number are minor offenders, social casualties who could be diverted from prison if non-custodial resources were available. It could be done by 300 probation officers at a quarter of the cost of the prison staff (even with a generous allowance for overheads).

Fifty per cent of prisoners are reconvicted within two years (and even more from borstals and detention centres). But 80 per cent of probation orders are completed without a reconviction, or terminated for good progress - a striking contrast, even allowing for the difference in intake.

Probation initiatives are also stymied by the funding system: unless they can extract 30 per cent of the cost from beleaguered local authorities, the Home Office hangs on to its 80 per cent.

If each probation area were offered (with suitable conditions) say £3,000 from central funds for every reduction below its predicted prison population, we should all be

better off. There might even be a lower reconviction rate.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN WRIGHT,
107 Palace Road, SW2,
May 6.

From Lord Hytton

Sir, The Home Secretary (Feature, May 5) strongly defends his record. Certainly he has started more prison-building and modernization of obsolete jails than most of his predecessors. Many, however, will find it strange that he did not mention extending parole to offenders serving medium and short sentences. Such a measure would significantly reduce the prison population within one year.

Mr Whitlaw did not refer to the importance of removing alcoholics, drug addicts and the mentally ill from prison to adequately secure places where they can receive urgent medical treatment and care. One also looked in vain for a mention of the need for more bail hostels to accommodate prisoners on remand, especially those of no fixed address.

Policies of this kind will of course be expensive and will involve departments other than the Home Office. I believe they will prove cheaper in the long run than merely enlarging a prison system which frustrates both staff and inmates and discharges some prisoners in a worse state than when they entered.

You reported on page 2 of the same day that the probation service will receive an extra £1m instead of the £8m that is thought necessary for implementing non-custodial sentences under the recent Criminal Justice Act. Let us all demand rational penal expenditure instead of an ever-growing prison system, which already costs more per prisoner than public school education.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON,
House of Lords.

The Tory succession

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, In your obituary of Lord Redmayne (April 30), you refer to the speech which he made after the appointment of Lord Home as Prime Minister in October, 1963. You quote him as saying that Lord Home was "unquestionably the first choice of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons". May I state the position and methods which were used to produce this result?

Almost all Conservative members of Parliament, including myself, were asked the question "If Rab and Quintin were to tie, would you accept Alec Home as Prime Minister to keep the party united?" I replied, to my Whip, that this question was most improper, unless I were shown figures which indeed, I did show that Mr R. A. Butler and Lord Hailsham had received an identical number of votes. This data was never made available to me.

I subsequently wrote to Mr Redmayne (as he then was) and he granted me an interview. I asked him to give me the number of my, then, colleagues who had voted for Mr Butler, Lord Hailsham, and Lord Home. This he declined to do.

I then asked him to tell me

whether the votes of some Conservative members of Parliament had been weighted, on grounds of seniority or some other special factor. He conceded that this had happened, but under questioning, he refused to tell me what formula had been used by him, or his subordinate Whips, to achieve the result contained in his public statement.

My own informal polling of my colleagues showed that all of them had been subjected to the loaded question referred to above. It also showed that Mr R. A. Butler had an overwhelming lead among members of Parliament, with Lord Hailsham in second place, and Lord Home trailing behind as a very poor third choice.

I do not criticise Lord Redmayne for what he did, since he was clearly, under the orders of Mr Harold Macmillan, who was still Prime Minister. Indeed, I always found him a most considerate and understanding Chief Whip. Nor do I wish to criticise Lord Home, for whom I have great affection and admiration. He should not, however, have become Prime Minister in October, 1963.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick, W4.

Europe as an entity

From Mr Adam Fergusson, MEP for West Strathclyde

Sir, Mr Barney Treach was right to emphasise the point that, as he puts it (April 30), "other people accept Europe as an entity much more readily than do the Europeans themselves".

The proposition is evident across the Community's institutions. As European political co-operation (EPC) develops between the Foreign Ministers of the Ten the member states are finding it increasingly unwelcome to act independently in foreign policy and more productive than ever to act in unison, speaking with one voice where that is appropriate. Not the least reason for this is the presumption by outsiders that we will so behave.

Likewise, those who attend the European Parliament commonly observe that the anxieties of the numerous lobbies from third countries in Strasbourg invariably outweigh the apparent attention paid to its proceedings by the governments and parliaments of the member states. Those lobbies assume that there is a coherent European public opinion to be influenced.

I do not doubt that the acceptance of - perhaps the insistence on - a European entity and identity by "other people" (including, perversely, the Soviets' refusal to recognise it) is a strong force for European cohesion and for the development of the Community as a significant bastion of Western security.

And I fancy that many of those who hope to pull the United Kingdom out of the Community, and assert that our exit would be

either painless or beneficial, have already reflected on this matter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ADAM FERGUSSON,
9 Addison Crescent, W14,
May 1.

Media challenge

From Professor Yorick Wilks

Sir, Mr Scargill repeated, on early morning television yesterday (May 3), a claim he has made a number of times, but which his discussants never question: the news media in this country are inconsistent, he says, because they oppose trade unions here but appear to support Solidarity in Poland, even though both are opposed to their respective governments.

This claim, if true, is serious and damaging; but it is, of course, utter rubbish. The Government in a national policy is elected, and a population known to be 80 per cent in favour of further curbs on the powers and immunities of unions.

Little is said about Poland, except that the Government is not elected, in any sense of that word that we can understand and that Solidarity appears to command wider support than any Government-backed unions. Or at least, it did when it was first elected.

There is no inconsistency in the reports by television and newspapers: they broadly support popular policy in both countries, in so far as that can be objectively established.

Yours sincerely,
YORICK WILKS,
402 Old Road,
Clacton, Essex.

Conservative view on nuclear force

From Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Rushlip-Northwood (Conservative)

Sir, I am surprised that Mr Anthony Verrier (Letter, May 10), who has taken such a consistent interest in defence, should so seriously misinterpret Conservative attitudes to nuclear strategy.

First, the fact that there have been nuclear bases in East Anglia and elsewhere in Britain for over a generation, makes less understandable rather than more the opposition of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and of the Labour Party to the stationing of cruise missiles in this country. Secondly, Mr Verrier asserts that mutual deterrence is not impaired if one superpower has a measurable "superiority" in a particular category of nuclear weapons. This is not true at any level.

At the tactical level nuclear superiority on the part of the USSR complemented by intermediate range and strategic equivalence between the superpowers could conceivably render a Soviet nuclear blitzkrieg a valid policy option. Soviet superiority in intermediate range nuclear forces, unless redressed by Nato, could in the view of Soviet planners decouple the United States' nuclear guarantee of Western European security since, in the absence of adequate theatre nuclear forces, the United States would risk nuclear retaliation on its homeland if it invoked its strategic arsenal in response to Soviet aggression at a theatre level.

Lastly, the possession of an adequate strategic nuclear deterrent is the headstone of what should be a symmetrical arch of nuclear deterrence whose twin pillars are sufficient tactical and theatre nuclear forces and whose foundation is an adequate conventional defence.

The strategic nuclear component of our defences ensures that there is no advantage to a potential aggressor in either a resort to strategic nuclear blackmail or to the first use of nuclear weapons. Its effect, therefore, is to inhibit the use or threat of nuclear weapons as a credible option by an offensive power. In short it helps to preserve peace.

The French Socialist Government, in response to Mr Andropov's latest offer on intermediate nuclear force arms control, has rightly insisted that France's nuclear forces are not negotiable. The overall effectiveness of the Western Alliance's deterrent is enhanced by having two supplementary centres of nuclear decision in Western Europe.

The additional uncertainty in gauging the British and French nuclear response to a Soviet attack of any kind which put at risk the sovereignty of independent Britain or France undoubtedly helps to restrain most effectively the Soviet desire to acknowledge, which Mr Verrier acknowledges, that Mr Verrier acknowledges.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
House of Commons,
May 10.

Better railway policy

From Lord Tanlaw

Sir, The Chairman of the British Railways Board, in a recent address to the Chartered Institute of Transport, pointed the way towards the "better railway". Apparently the signposts are to be found in the Serrill report, described similarly by the Minister of Transport as "a stepping stone... towards the better railway". The report has based its main recommendations on closure of between 2,000 and 3,000 miles of railway track.

I understand that, after a closure notice has been served, the department has two years in which to decide the future of a defunct railway line. If no directive is received British Rail can sell the land for caravan sites, rubbish tips or, failing a purchaser, leave it to decay without public access or right of way.

Is this not the time to have a national policy on the derelict areas of countryside which were once railway lines? Threatened routes like Carlisle to Settle, if they are no longer suitable for trains, could be turned into cycleways, bridleways and walkways at small cost and immense public benefit. Before any cuts are made the concept of an improved but reduced rail system must surely include what is to be done with existing and future closed rail routes?

There is nothing to prevent the British Railways Board, in conjunction with the Minister of Transport, from setting up a commission now with all local authorities concerned to establish a public right of way for posterity along these old and threatened routes.

If something like this is not done soon visions of the "better railway", as seen by Serrill and others, will be tarnished for ever by the thousands of miles of needlessly derelict countryside they will have created for our grandchildren.

Yours faithfully,
TANLAW,
House of Lords,
May 5.

Buying British

From Sir Anthony Royle, MP for Richmond-upon-Thames (Conservative)

Sir, Mrs Julia Draper in her letter to you dated April 23 warned shoppers who wish to buy British to be wary of the "almost hidden and invisible" "Made in Hongkong". But Hongkong is British.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY ROYLE,
House of Commons,
May 5.

We all realize the need for new council housing, particularly for the elderly, but there is vacant land not far away, including some owned by the ILEA and GLC, that could be released for such purposes with a little bureaucratic lubrication.

Greenwich is a London town centre of local, national, and international importance, which needs practical help for its economy and community vitality as much as it does reverence for its historic architecture. May we ask for support in preventing this short-sighted scheme from going forward?

Yours etc,
ANTHONY BAILEY,
DAVID DRUMMOND,
GLENDA JACKSON,
ROY FULLER,
RICHARD MOY,
RODERICK RHYS JONES,
63 Royal Hill,
Greenwich, SE10,
May 5.

This decision is contrary to oft-repeated council promises to the public over the years that the site would be developed for a mixture of uses; not only housing but a hotel, craft workshops, shops, and community facilities have been frequently proposed in answer to the call at public meetings for such varied use.

The most recent public "consultation exercise", on March 31 this year, saw several hundred people of various income brackets, political allegiances and social backgrounds make such a unanimous demand: they included local councillors from both Labour and Conservative parties.

That the public has a keen common sense for what makes an urban locality work was further shown in the request for walkways giving access across the site and for an open plaza to provide a central meeting place and a spot on which the market could continue.

PICTURES BY MIKE ABRAHAM

Today's Office

Office managements are now recognising that electronic technology is the key to improved performance. Allied to this is better designed furniture and lighting.

Derek Harris reports

The concept of the paperless office, relying on a combination of computers, microelectronics and telecommunications, has created a good deal of euphoria in its time. Many companies have jumped on the electronic bandwagon - there are well over a hundred selling word processors alone in Britain - and their forceful salesmanship no doubt made its contribution.

That phase is largely over: it is accepted that the electronic revolution will not occur overnight. Nor will there be a sudden move towards the really sophisticated systems furniture which takes account of future needs like those of the electronic office although refinement of existing furniture systems has made big strides in improving work conditions.

Many offices, however, still boast no more than some electric typewriters, a few photocopiers and perhaps a television set capable of calling up the Prestel videodata services.

Investments of up to £20,000 in capital equipment per worker are common in manufacturing industry while in offices still going their old-fashioned way investment per head can be little more than £1,000 in equipment.

In a recession, when survival is all, it has not been easy to take a longer view. But just as manufacturers are increasingly realizing that automation can increase their chances of success, office managements are recognizing that advanced information and voice processing are the key to improved performance.

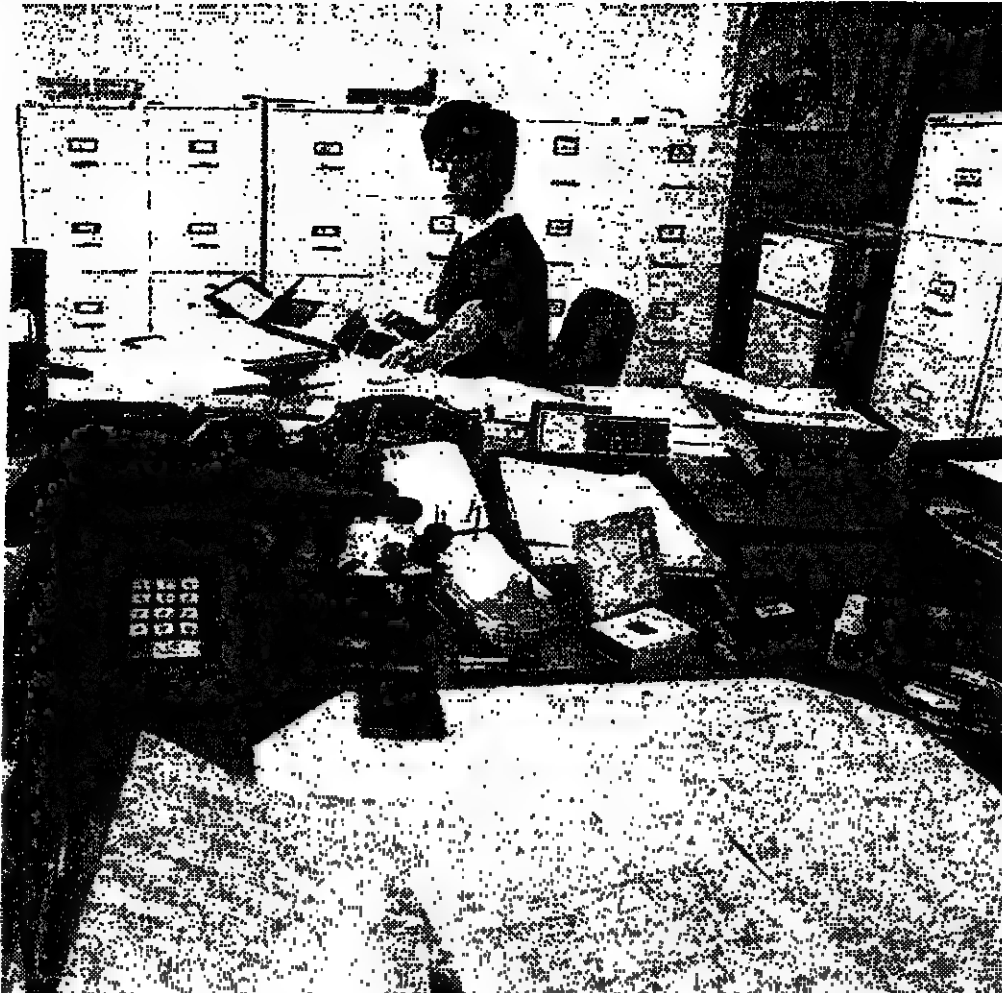
World-wide sales of advanced office equipment last year have been put at £3,000m. This year a United Kingdom market worth £48m is the expectation of Butler, Cox and Partners, a leading UK office automation consultancy. This estimate was made after a £250,000 survey commissioned by the Department of Industry with five leading electronics companies (the survey is *The Market for Office Technology*: £20,000 from Butler Cox on 01-583-9381).

By 1987 the UK market could be worth £320m, Butler Cox believes. Between now and then the British market is expected to generate £600m in sales out of a West European total of £2,900m.

The survey, carried out over 18 months and produced at the turn of the year, is cautious in its projections. It discounts the likelihood of a white-hot revolution over the next few years: "Technologies, products, applications and supplier strategies will evolve. Customers will learn how to apply office technology slowly and often painfully."

Nevertheless, by 1987 the UK market for advanced office systems could represent 15 per cent of the vast market for information technology, from data processing systems to telecommunications.

Data terminals and videotext systems are likely to sell best at first, the survey suggests. But by 1987 there should be a £103m market for terminals integrating text, data, voice and pictures - the full professional workstation.



From typewriter to microcomputer: right, Phil Juddkins, personnel manager of Rank Xerox, using an executive work station.



The big change facing most clerical workers

By that year more than 60 per cent of clerical workers (though only 12 per cent of managers) will be using an electronic terminal in their offices, the survey forecasts. But it mostly leaves out of account the specialized sector of the office furniture market which caters for the demands of the electronic office. This is the systems furniture sector, which this year could add at least £50m more in value as the recession lifts.

More recent studies suggest that there is some 44 million square metres of commercial office space in England alone, with around 6 per cent more being added annually. Most offices are still comparatively small.

Some 9 million people work in offices, well over a third of the country's workforce.

The latest investigation into the prospects for change in the office is the Orbit study* on information technology and design. Its sponsors include the Department of Industry and British Telecom.

The study says the scope for growth in use of information technology is vast. World market forecasts of an increase in sales volume of 15 per cent a year are now being made. Orbit points out. This could mean an increase of nearly half in real terms over five years.

Some products, such as word processors, are increasing sales by value at twice that rate, all the more impressive because prices have been falling during the difficult period of the recession.

EOSYS, office systems consultants, who are joint publishers of the Orbit study, surveyed 20 companies and found that most were expecting to increase their expenditure on office automation. The biggest increase was expected in desktop systems like word processors and microprocessors. Some 70 per cent or those surveyed expected to spend more on items like these.

Orbit says: "One of the most obvious manifestations in the normal working areas of offices will be more workstations. These will be similar to today's microcomputers, word processors and visual display units but with increasing sophistication, wider ranging capabilities, more customization to meet the needs of different users and a greater emphasis in managerial and professional workstations."

"This will bring a rapid increase in the requirement to link workstations so that they can be used for electronic mail and to access databases."

Multi-task workstations are expected for one in six office

workers within five to 10 years with one workstation for every three office workers in 10 to 15 years. Some sectors will embrace the new technology more quickly than others, Orbit suggests. In the finance sector one workstation is expected for every six employees within five years. Some companies already have more.

Nevertheless the study accepts that paper will be around for many years yet. Electronic filing is expected to account for less than half of stored documents for the next 15 years.

Similar conservative predictions are made about voice and text storage, store and forward message systems and about the transmission of document by digital means.

There are still some constraints to the rate of introduction of new technology into the office, Orbit concludes. Despite progressively cheaper systems, the cost and lack of standardization are still real barriers.

More and more multinational companies have nevertheless been moving into office automation. IBM and Apple, two of the best known names in computers, recently launched new microcomputers as the cornerstones of their electronic office systems. Wang is already deeply involved in the office market. So is Rank Xerox UK.

There are already 180,000 personal computers in use in British business establishments, according to the National Business Equipment Survey (NBES). The market could increase by a half this year, NBES suggests.

Facsimile transmission is another big growth area, according to Mr Gautam Barua, director of NBES. Kalle Infotec, part of Hoechst, and ITT have been making much of the running recently but other contenders include Rank Xerox and, among the Japanese, National Panasonic and Canon.

A bewildering array of companies are vying for part of the office automation business. It is blurring the old boundaries between computers, telecom-

munication and general electronics.

From the telecommunications route, for instance, there have been entries into the office market of companies like STC, Plessey and General Electric Company (GEC).

Olympia International is a typewriter company which has now developed a wide range of office equipment, including computer-interfacing printers, calculators and dictation systems. Olympia estimates that between 1976 and last year the typewriter market has seen a decline in mechanical machines from 58 per cent to 39 per cent while electrics have risen from 42 per cent to 49 per cent, with the newer electronic models now at 12 per cent. Of these, word processors account for 3 per cent and electronic typewriters 9 per cent.

Olympia expects electronic typewriters - in which it claims a 30 per cent market share of those in place - to take 72 per cent of the market in the next three years.

Rank Xerox, although now involved in most aspects of office equipment, still has its strongest presence in the copier market. Although hard pressed, particularly by Japanese manufacturers, Rank last year accounted for about 29 per cent of copier sales, according to

NBES. Among the Japanese makers Canon had 9 per cent market share and U-Bix 9 per cent with Minolta at 7 per cent.

The revolution rolls on, but there are obvious hurdles. Office buildings are ill-equipped to take the wiring complexity, extra weights and additional heat of the new machines. Office staff and managers also have personally to adapt to the new equipment. That has raised many questions from fatigue and health to the ergonomic design of equipment and the provision of adequate lighting. But the Orbit study does make this point: "Although there are some exceptions, most studies of staff reaction to working with new equipment show a high level of satisfaction and a growing sense of confidence and job involvement."

*The Orbit Study: Information Technology and Office Design: £200 from DEG, 8-9 Bulstrode Place, Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5FW.

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Have you started an office automation system or merely bought a word processor?



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WORD PROCESSORS

Loving the machine more than the boss

Technology often has the frustrating tendency to lead, rather than follow the market, and this was endorsed in a recent survey produced by the UK Information and Word Processing Association (IWP).

The main conclusions from the survey indicated that 1983 will be another year of high sales growth for word processors and office computers. However the equipment users are still faced with a host of problems which make selection and implementation difficult. The IWP survey highlighted in particular:

- the difficulty in justifying the cost of buying systems
- the widening choice of hardware further complicated by the overlapping capabilities of microcomputers and dedicated word processors
- the need for more advanced communications facilities

The respondents were drawn from 700 word processor users, and 88 per cent said they were planning to acquire more word processing equipment this year. The overriding criterion for selection was reliability, and price was of secondary importance behind such factors as ease of learning, and the vendor's ability to provide future integrated office systems.

Secretaries were seen as almost unanimous in welcoming the introduction of the word processor (wp) and there was a

trend in training wp operators more through in-house instruction and self-taught packages, with little emphasis on suppliers' training courses.

The IWP has often criticized the after-sales service in such areas as training by the manufacturers and according to Horace Mitchell, their national programmes officer, there is a distinct and definite shift towards the supplier "unbundling training and customer support, and charging for it, if offering it at all". The IWP does not enjoy witnessing this trend, but appreciate this has created an opportunity for other businesses to supplement this manufacturers' neglect.

About one third of respondents to the IWP survey saw information technology (IT) having some effect on secretarial numbers, but more than two thirds considered the change in secretarial deployment far outweighed the risk of unemployment.

The lack of help from the IT industry in providing user help and practical after sales advice and support, has forced the IWP to give such guidance in their seminars at the forthcoming user conference being held in parallel with the International Word and Information Processing Exhibition* at Wembley Conference Centre in London, May 24-27, 1983. Speakers "with practical know-

ledge and experience, rather than famous names or paper qualifications are the criteria used for the seminars" says Mr Mitchell, when discussing the conference "streams", a "word processing" stream and an "information processing" one, the former catering for the first time user and those wishing to get improvement out of existing systems, while the second stream relates to the existence of office systems through communication and dp/wp integration, concentrating on the more serious management approach to the planning and implementation of office automation.

Secretaries will have access to better information through IT, and using their ideas and information is every bit as important as word processor selection. Gale Chilton, a secretary with Truman Ltd, the brewing part of Grand Met, endorsed this by saying that executives could be much more productive if "they listened to the ideas and information flowing to them through their secretaries. Of course a word processor would make one more productive, especially with regular routine work, or major reports, but executives need to utilise the secretarial functions better, whether there is a word processor or not".

The need for executives to appreciate the scope and poten-



Hugh Channon, administration manager of the Arthur Andersen company, where office automation has rapidly changed from being just a sales story for word processing to become a major investment area for the company.

tial of word processors, was emphasized by Aubrey Wilson, the marketing authority, when his secretary Jan, got her Adler word processor.

"She insisted that I sit down with her and understand with her just what this machine could, and could not, do to help me" says Wilson who admits to having been reticent about the introduction of IT into his offices. He was completely convinced within a day, as the effect on improved productivity was instant, says Wilson. "She loves her machine, more than

her boss unfortunately, but it was the way it was introduced that was just as vital as the choice of equipment".

Unions do not like to be bombarded with change and new technology and Leslie Robert, the Nalgo official who is chairman of Brent Council's joint negotiating committee, considers there is much more scope for managers, users and trade union representatives to sit down and discuss the opportunities of new technology before it is bought.

He says: "We have had

situations in Brent where equipment has arrived and been introduced without consultation and users' job roles and tasks have been changed without consent. This is the wrong way to introduce office automation - agreements must be reached first."

The traditional division of labour between executive and secretary is close to collapse, according to John Pardoe, the former Liberal MP who is now MD of Sight and Sound, the office training organization. Sight and Sound is the largest

keyboard training organization in the world, with 11 colleges in the UK, and is about to become one of the largest managing agents under the Government's new youth training scheme. He says there is an urgent need for executives to overcome the prejudice of class and gender that invariably assigns keyboard functions to female secretaries, but even the IWP survey found that over 50 per cent of their respondents "foresee difficulties for managers using word stations."

Sight and Sound gives programmed tuition in keyboarding and appreciation to operators of computer application, an essential training at a time when word processors are becoming increasingly more advanced.

In 1979, Olympia International launched the world's first standard electronic typewriter, and now four years later has seen the innovation of screen extensions to that typewriter. These offer the facilities of a dedicated word processor at a fraction of the price and means that hitherto "dead end" standard typewriters are now readily upgradeable.

The ETX-1 is promoted as a low cost alternative to multi-

station word processing systems and, if purchased with the standard electronic typewriter, can mean a complete screen-based text-processing system for less than £1,800.

WORDNET has also produced its 2,000, the missing link which can connect up to eight different typewriters, golfball or electronic with any make of word processor. Costing less than £4 per typewriter input station per week, it brings the technology within reach of many smaller organizations which, according to the IWP survey had previously found it difficult to justify the cost of wp equipment.

New electronic interfaces are now being launched like Olivetti's OCTET KSR/MSR which can be used as an adjunct to its standard ET 121 electronic typewriter. This enables the typewriter to be used as a letter-quality printer for a micro, and adds a further 4,000 characters to the ET's one line memory. It also enables the typewriter to "communicate" with a third party such as another Olivetti machine, telex tape, or word processor.

Many offices still only have dictating machines, but this is changing as the manufacturers, like Philips and Dictaphone, extend their interests into word processors and other areas of office automation. Dictaphone's centralized dictation systems are today no longer the desk-top machines with hunting devices of 10 years ago, but are purpose designed systems capable of getting words direct from the author's desk to the typist, and back, as quickly as possible.

But the complexity of equipment on the market, usually in digital disguise, confuses the users. With a tendency to concentrate on selling rather than service, complacency within the IT industry breeds contempt in its potential users.

"User friendliness" may be the topical theme for the manufacturers, but as the IWP survey has endorsed, too many users only see this "friendliness" up to the buying stage, and very little thereafter. If only they appreciated how important the secretary was to an organization's office automation strategy then manufacturers might extend their "friendliness" long after they have sold their product.

*Details available from Quadri-lect, telephone 01 242 8697

Lynda King Taylor

INFORMATION

Why executives feel the pinch

The average office worker is interrupted every 17 minutes. True office automation, says Dr Rich Sneider, manager of marketing and development for Data General, has to consider this problem at all levels of office work.

Typing represents only one per cent of an office's budget, according to Sneider, five per cent on the professional, managerial and executive level. A company which is considering word and data processing in isolation from the activities of the office as a whole is, Dr Sneider says, "ignoring cost effectiveness, and also ignoring executive communications resource they should be."

Information is a corporate resource, and as such, office automation has to deal with the managing of information from a total corporate perspective.

According to a recent survey by the Information and Word Processing Association (IWP), few companies have an office automation strategy and few executives want to operate VDUs or work stations.

A recent experiment, by a UK subsidiary of IBM involving groups of managers and secretaries, tested how executives and other professionals accept the "paperless office". It confirmed that in most cases, the transition from pen or pencil to fully integrated work station by executives was seldom beyond the experimental stage.

This experiment, and a survey by Booz Allen and Hamilton, showed that executives, in the main, are remarkably unwilling to use new forms of office equipment personally, which can produce dramatic gains in productivity, has not penetrated the upper echelons to any great extent.

Executives, it seems, appear to be poor estimators of how they actually spend their time. Booz Allen consultants found wide discrepancies between executives' estimates of how long they expected to spend on a variety of activities and the time actually taken.

Executives expressed apprehension about their abilities to use information technology (IT) systems. This is obviously something manufacturers must worry about if their dream of having a VDU on every executive's desk by the end of the decade is to become reality.

Alan Benjamin, the chairman of IT Year 82 and director of communication of CAP Group, feels that for executives to accept office automation, "there will need to be a major development by the suppliers to make systems for managers much more friendly, and flexible, than they are now. This means that information will have to be accessible in the form which the manager recognizes."

In human terms, today's computer is a spoon-fed idiot, but how many manufacturers'

bluffs actually illustrate this? Sales literature expounds the powerful ability of the computer to calculate, with a faultless memory and even a communication prowess. It fails to emphasise that the computer cannot think, reason, interpret, or make decisions.

David Burt, deputy managing director of Hellermann Deutch, the electrical connector manufacturers, says that if manufacturers made IT more "personal", more executives would be willing to accept change. All too often, say Burt and Benjamin, executives are made to feel that their jobs are being eroded by the introduction of elusive thinking machines - and that the computer is capable of putting a hundred years' thought into every management decision, which is simply not true.

The key to increased productivity and a sound future is by using new technology and, according to Pactal (the computer and telecommunications arm of PA International Management Consultants), by "managed innovation". Stuart Excell of Pactal says that tight financial control does not necessarily entail a sound economy, and that "by necessity, companies have to study the impact of technological change on their corporate strategy. The lesson is that organisations can no longer leave technology to the R & D boys. Directors must study and understand the impact of technological change on their corporate strategy, and indeed play a part in defining an overall technical strategy."

But according to executives like Benjamin and Burt, manufacturers make it very difficult for them to answer such questions as:

- What technologies should I invest in to remain competitive tomorrow?
 - Who will be my future competitors?
 - Where will my competitive markets be in the future?
 - What sort of executives should I be recruiting for this organisation in five years time?
- Willie Jamieson, senior manager of Arthur Andersen's Consultancy Division says the key challenge to executives is the role of middle managers in the future. How is middle management to be used when, information access having been acquired by senior executives themselves through office automation, this level of management could effectively be dispensed with and the work disappear. Jamieson says that if secretaries and support staff have better access to information, then their job roles will be "upgraded" squeezing the middle managers above.

It is imperative, therefore, according to Jamieson, that corporate IT strategies look toward the future recruitment and planning policies.

This is particularly important with middle managers, for

continued on page 19



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OFFICE FURNITURE

Design for more work and a lot less waste

The office furniture market, now worth at least £100m a year in sales, has been struggling off the effects of recession in a way the rest of the furniture industry has envied. Furniture sales overall have been depressed for two years, with improvement coming in only at the end of last year. The office furniture market, however, grew last year by 8 per cent.

But a far bigger growth than this has come in that part of the office furniture market which represents the leading edge of designs and techniques. This is the systems sector which produces furniture in a more complex way to accommodate the demands not only of the electronic office but a working environment calculated to improve productivity while adding to individual comfort and convenience.

The best systems also look far enough ahead to allow scope for the inevitable changes which will come in as electronic and other systems proliferate in offices over the rest of this decade.

The systems market, in which there are now more than a score of manufacturers in Britain with some of them offshoots of the overseas giants, last year grew at twice the rate of the office furniture market overall, according to National Business Equipment Survey (NBES). NBES puts the sector's annual sales value at about £50m although some manufacturers put the value as high as £70m compared with possibly £130m for the office furniture market overall.

Systems sales have eased in the past few months but NBES believes that this year will see up to an 18 per cent increase, with the overall office furniture market up between 12 and 13 per cent.

Entirely British companies account for about a third of the turnover in the systems market. Among them are Ronco Vickers and Lucas Furniture Systems, both among the top five producers of systems furniture. Newer entrants include Projects Office Furniture, part of the Bullough Group and Britain's largest manufacturer of wooden office furniture, and G. A. Harvey of Margate which has been attracting trade attention with its latest range of systems furniture.

But the market leader is Herman Miller, a United States based company but now with a substantial production presence in Britain, with two factories in Bath. Miller claims a 30 per cent market share in panel-based systems. Treading close to Miller in market share are offshoots of two other United States companies: Steelcase and Westinghouse Electric.

Steelcase is the world's largest producer of office furniture and its European subsidiary is Steelcase Strafor, including a strong French interest with production facilities in France. Westinghouse has production facilities in the Irish Republic.

It is the systems makers which especially have addressed themselves to the problem of the unproductive office. There have been estimates that typists and secretaries spend only 15

per cent of their time actually typing letters and documents, with general administration accounting for 25 per cent of time, being away from the desk another 20 per cent, telephoning 10 per cent and doing not very much. Chasing up records and files can also eat up much time.

The file of systems furniture has changed dramatically from the time when the office

furniture industry simply provided people with desks, chairs and cupboards, according to Mr Neville Osrin, Steelcase's marketing manager in the United Kingdom.

He said: "One factor has been the trend towards office automation with the electronic office as the ultimate development. But there is also a growing awareness that the environmental supports within an office, including the furni-

ture, do play a part in improving productivity."

He added: "Productive work time is the key. We are finding that by using furniture which is responsive to change the amount of money required to keep productivity at an acceptable level is very much less." Most offices were still grossly ill-equipped to adapt to the new technologies coming in.

The aim of all systems furniture is to cope with the

ducting of electrical wiring for new electric equipment, often providing lighting suitable for work at visual display units, together with layouts and ergonomic seating which increase efficiency and reduce fatigue.

As much as two hours work time a day can be lost through distractions, according to Mr Osrin. In open-plan offices there was need to tackle problems like lack of privacy, lack of opportunity to concentrate and poor acoustical control.

An entirely cellular office is not necessarily the only answer because varying degrees of privacy can be achieved by using panels of varying heights.

Research back-up is the strong suit of companies like Steelcase which even employ professional advisors to look into the psychology of workers in offices faced with change. "Offices are about people essentially," said Mr Osrin.

Although he expects the impact of microtechnology on the office to be enormous in the next few years, Mr Osrin questions how far there will be more working at workstations in the home or in community work centres. "That is a generation away," he said.

Lucas has developed its systems range after lengthy and continuing consultation with leading computer, telecommunications and microelectronic systems makers worldwide, according to Mr Jack Lucas, the company's marketing director.

With most office furniture makers developing their sys-

tems either from a wood manufacturing base or a steel construction base, Lucas has aimed at a balance between the elements of wood and steel. He added: "Britons seem to like wood better; it is a more traditional view."

After a slowdown in sales that set in last September Mr Lucas has seen a sharp increase in trade in the past few months and believes there will be sustained market growth the rest of this year. Lucas itself is looking from now to a turnover increase of 23 per cent or more in the next 12 months.

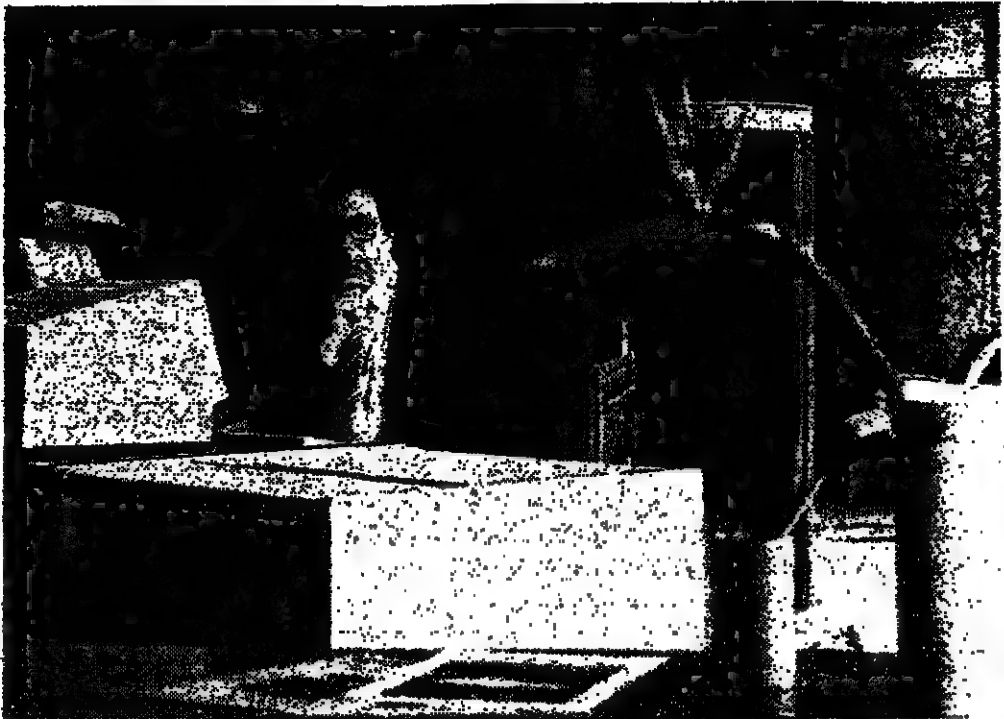
A key factor he believes is that companies are looking hard to saving on expensive office space. He claims planned systems workstations could save at least 20 per cent of space while allowing the same level of productivity.

At G. A. Harvey design manager Mr John Fogarty says that some systems furniture can be too bland with a tendency to depersonalize an office.

With colour features and other detail differences workstations can be personalized. He said: "We felt the British market in particular does not like too much of a dictated philosophy."

How far many of the British manufacturers succeed in the systems market could well depend on how far a distinctive British taste in office furnishings and systems continues to find a place as the office revolution continues.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor



Neville Osrin: the electronic office is the ultimate aim

Living up to the lavish literature

COPIERS

According to a recent survey, copier machines are fast overtaking the work of duplicators in American offices. The study made by Predicasts Inc, a business information company based at Cleveland, Ohio, shows that the most rapid growth is in plain paper copiers replacing coated paper electrostatic machines as well as offset duplicators.

The same message comes from the UK market, with copiers becoming more compact, cheaper and more capable than ever before and, as a result, more popular, writes Lynda King Taylor.

Technology has improved copy quality and reliability and has allowed for the inclusion of intricate and specialized features on even low volume equipment.

In a Times survey for this report, copy quality was regarded as the most important requirement by firms considering buying a copier, whether a simple desk top model or a high

speed, high volume machine. Seventy-eight per cent of the 75 companies approached put strong service back-up second to copy quality, but 63 per cent of the companies were dissatisfied with after-sales service and complained of misrepresentation by salesmen.

The most frequent complaint was the machines' failure to live up to the salesmen's lavish literature, and the bigger the manufacturer the greater the number of complaints. Companies in the low to middle volume end of the market attracted fewer complaints, and this may well be because this is where there is sharp competition. Many firms have a medium sized copier for each office or floor, rather than one central machine, and this trend

towards decentralization favours the low and medium volume sectors, with companies like Canon, U-Bix, Minolta and Sharp competing with a myriad of models and modifications.

Some companies, like U-Bix, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation, have grown considerably over the last few years, and U-Bix will be launching two new plain paper copiers this month as well as two new desk-top machines. U-Bix has a good reputation for after sales service probably because its dealer network is carefully chosen.

Competition also breeds fierce price wars, with even the prices of new copiers being discounted. In trying to maintain profits, more and more manufacturers are selling

through dealers - even companies like Rank Xerox, with a history of established direct sales forces.

More than 90 per cent of the companies surveyed were dissatisfied with reliability and the after-sales maintenance service. Although happier with copy quality, they found that performance was not nearly as good as the makers had claimed it would be. Complaints of deterioration between service calls were also high and many respondents wanted more service visits.

However, it is expensive providing good service back-up. Some dealers complained that manufacturers did not train

their sales and service staff sufficiently and with the proliferation of features and gimmicks on machines even the dealers themselves were sometimes not aware of changes to product ranges.

There is such a spectrum of styles on the market from the recently launched AP 1600 auto printer by Ricoh, a Japanese company, which offers reprographic packages for the smaller business; to the world's smallest photocopier, the Sirius PC16 by ACT Office Product, measuring just 16in by 18in by 7.2in. This typewriter-sized model, is, according to Terry Lloyd, managing director of ACT, indicative of "a new trend towards decentralization of office equipment."

These machines will also

appeal to the customer whose workload is not so great and who previously would have found it difficult to justify a large machine. Maintenance is virtually eliminated with this type of machine, and one can even get copies in a range of colours, black, brown and blue.

Minolta is also introducing a new range of plain paper copiers at the Copiers '83 exhibition, to be held at the Cunard International Hotel, London W6, May 17-20, and is another example of a Japanese company sweeping the copier market. It is difficult to buy British when considering copiers, and anything that works and which isn't Japanese comes from Germany or the US.

It is well worth having a machine on trial for at least two

months before buying, for many machines simply will not do all that the sales literature claims. This is particularly true of the smaller models with a range of features, like pause, reduction, enlargement, mono component toner, and cold pressure fusing.

"Sending an idea around the world in 40 seconds", is the result of what Canon calls the perfect marriage of telephone and copier. A telephone provides instant verbal communication, the copier, instant copies. The new Canon FAX provides both, through copy transmission. The original document is placed on the machine, the recipient is then dialled by phone, and in 40 seconds detailed copies of documents or drawings can be sent over ordinary telephone lines anywhere in the world. The FAX 401 indicates the technology trends in facsimile transceivers which are slowly beginning to make an impact in the world of copiers.

Feeling the pinch

continued from page 18

according to an *International Management* survey of companies and academics round the world, it was confirmed that the "whittling away of middle management" was a general problem.

"Suddenly the corporate world has much less room for the middle managers", says Leyland I. Forst, a principal of management consultants A. T. Kearney in New York, who estimates that middle management positions around the world have declined by 15 per cent on average over the past three years.

A solution to this, according to Parry Rogers, personnel director of Plessey, is to split companies into smaller groups. "This motivates middle managers. So instead of filtering information and preparing decisions for other people to take, middle managers at Plessey have found themselves running their own small businesses in the group, with substantial delegated authority."

Office Planning Consultants (OPC) also endorse the need for corporate strategies at boardroom level when considering the effect of office automation on executives. "Office planning is often wrongly equated solely with space planning and layout, but properly practised it embraces every aspect of administration, whether it is corporate strategy, systems and procedures, job output or job satisfaction."

Alan Frost, general manager of Philips Wood Processing, believes that one of the most vexed choices, particularly for the smaller company, is between two competing items of electronic machinery "should one buy a dedicated word processor, or micro computer with a word processing package?"

According to David Burt, "the content of manufacturer's literature is almost all technical, and many executives wishing to know more about IT may find it uncomfortable to have to contemplate something they do not really understand."

Standard Telephones & Cables have tried to overcome this executive phobia by having a special demonstration centre in central London which aims to present, in a non-technical way, the merits of office automation for the businessman and the potential of information transfer technology.

There could be another answer: the winner of the Philips Business Systems competition to design the office of 2000 AD had all his IT at his fingertips, in a brief case.

LKT

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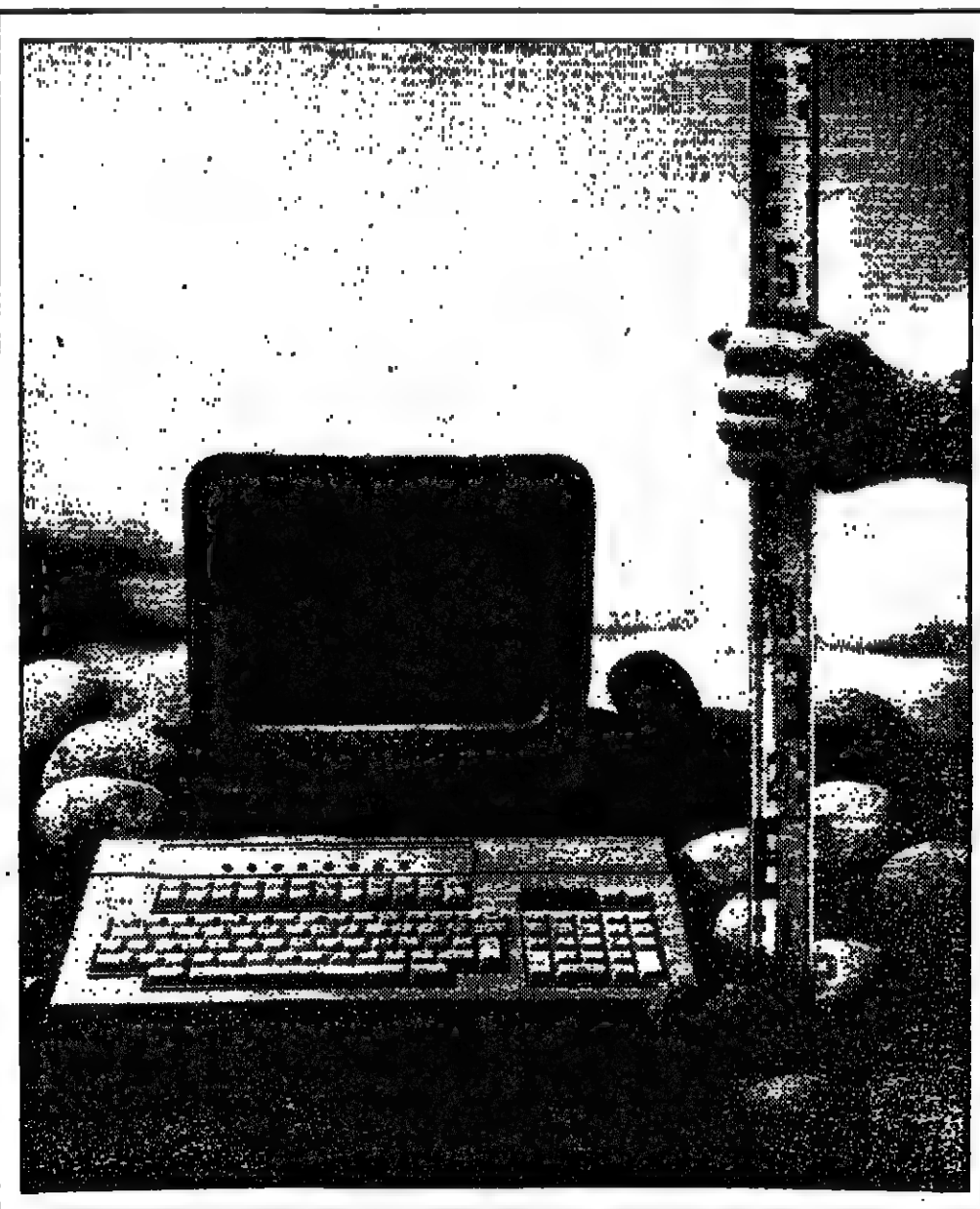
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TELEPHONES

Switching away from cord and plug

The private telephone exchanges operating in Britain today present the greatest range of contrasts in the history of the office.

At one extreme are antique manual switchboards at which an operator sits, plugging office workers into contact with the outside world. Cord-and-plug exchanges, little changed from the 1890s, really do survive in a few old buildings. And manual switchboards of a more recent vintage live on in surprising numbers.

The latest digital PABXs (private automatic branch exchanges) represent the other extreme. They switch both voice and data, within the office and to outside telephones and computer terminals, integrating all communications in a single network. It must be remembered that they still belong to the office of the future; there are fewer integrated digital networks in Britain today than cord and plug.

Remember too that a digital PABX, switching voice and data on conventional telephone lines, is not necessarily the most appropriate system for transmitting information within the office. If the volume of data is high, as for example in a highly automated office with an electronic workstation on every desk, a special cable - the local

area network - may be required to cope with internal traffic.

The local area network supported by most equipment suppliers is Ethernet, developed originally by Xerox. However, there are many other types, and Datapoint's Arc network still leads in the number of installations worldwide.

Digital exchanges switch both data and voice as a series of on-off binary digits (the "bits" of computer code) instead of the continuously varying analogue signals by which the telephone system traditionally transmits speech. The prime advantages of a digital network, apart from voice-data integration, are speed of switching and accuracy of transmission.

Obviously you enjoy those benefits to the full only if every element of your network is digital. Speed and quality inevitably suffer if the signals have to be converted from digital to analogue for part of their journey.

There is no difficulty in installing a fully digital network within a single office, but long distance communications with the outside world are a different matter. The conversion of British Telecom's public telephone network from analogue to digital switching is just beginning, with the introduction of the first System X



Dealers using British Telecom's communications terminal combining telex and computer.

letter X can represent either a symbol for digital or an abbreviation for exchange). Mercury, its competitor, will also offer companies private lines for digital transmission. So, for the first time, a company can now plan an entirely digital private network

within Britain, with electronic PABXs at all its offices and/or factories connected by X-stream lines leased from BT. One of the first companies actually to install an integrated network of this sort is Blue Circle, which is spending about £3m on a system with eight large PABXs

(SL-Is from GEC's Reliance Systems) and about 50 smaller exchanges (mainly Monarchs from BT).

Under the tidy and uncompetitive arrangement that existed until the current liberalization of the British telecommunications market, BT enjoyed a monopoly on the supply of small PABXs (serving fewer than 100 extensions) which it bought from a select band of manufacturers (GEC, Plessey, STC, TMC and a recent recruit, Mitel). On the other hand, customers purchased large exchanges directly from a few approved manufacturers (foreign companies were excluded unless they agreed to make the equipment in Britain).

Liberalization is beginning to break down the barriers. This year BT loses its sole right to supply small PABXs, though the technical approvals process for new, privately supplied equipment is running so far behind schedule that the real benefits of competition may not be felt until next year.

Purchase prices of BT's smallest exchanges start at about £1,000 for the Senator (made by GEC) and Ensign (TMC), which serve as few as four extensions. Maintenance charges will be at least £15 a quarter. At the other extreme, the largest PABXs with thousands of extensions cost several hundred thousand pounds.

After a thorough analysis of the future prospects during liberalization, the office equipment guide *What to Buy for Business* advised companies not to buy PABXs to take them into the 1990s until "true competition" arrives. "Wait a year or two, and you'll have more to choose between, you'll pay less and you'll get more."

Clive Cookson

Technology Correspondent

MAIL SERVICE

Coming to the rescue of the daily post

Despite all the forecasts which have been made about the arrival of electronic mail and the disappearance of paper, sending a message from one place to another remains much as it has always been. The message - whether it is an invoice, a sales letter, or anything else - is written on paper, an envelope is addressed, the paper is folded and placed in the envelope, the envelope is stamped or franked, and finally it is posted.

The entire activity is vast. There are 26 million letters and parcels being mailed each day by the business sector in Britain, and handling them all is a highly labour-intensive operation.

Indeed, in many companies the mailroom is the last outpost of the pre-technological age. But if electronics is not yet replacing paper, it is at least coming to the rescue to make mail handling more efficient.

There can be no single answer to making efficiency, because mail is generated and delivered in so many different ways. At its simplest, there is a secretary typing letters and putting them in envelopes. There is scope for automation only when all the letters from all the offices throughout a single organization arrive in the mailroom to be posted - usually late in the afternoon.

More amenable to modern handling methods are semi-standard documents like invoices and statements, which can be generated at high speed by computer. They demand equally high-speed mailing techniques if there is not to be a bottleneck.

Finally, there is bulk mailing of sales literature and other promotional material, where the scale of operations means that a whole array of technology can be brought into play: laser printing, automatic folding and insertion, and automatic sorting among them.

For years, many companies have been easing the log-jam in the mailroom by franking everyday post, rather than sticking on stamps. Pitney Bowes, a leading company in mail processing, estimates that the UK market for meter franking is worth about £20m, with 135,000 users.

Electronics is now being applied to this aspect of mail processing in a big way. Pitney Bowes has introduced a postage meter which can be hooked up to other pieces of equipment, such as scales and accounting

ling, and other types of paper handling.

Once mailing operations move to true bulk volumes, such as are found in direct mail, several more high-technology products can be brought into play. The capital investment is likely to be high, but these days direct mail is very big business indeed.

A key element in much of this type of mailing is the laser printer which combines computer technology with lasers and electrophotography. Instead of using metal type or filmsetting, a laser printer creates characters electronically and holds them in the form of software. The image is created by laser beams using a high-quality dot matrix method, with the characters being formed first on the surface of a photoconductor drum, and then transferred to a continuous web of paper.

Although laser printing equipment is costly - a system from Sperry, for example, costs about £200,000 for the basic configuration - many bulk mail users find this worth while. There is an extremely wide range of fonts and other images available, and varying information can be introduced during printing runs. It is not necessary to have special stationary or pre-printed forms.

An example of laser printing in practice is the Post Office's Royal Mail Electronic Post, which combines laser techniques with computer transmission and hand delivery. This allows text and addresses to be sent electronically over long distances, and then printed and delivered locally.

All the Post Office needs is the text of the message and a list of addresses on magnetic tape, logos and signatures where necessary, and the required delivery date. The information is transmitted digitally over normal telephone lines. At the receiving end, the signals are converted, and used to print the letters and addresses by laser. The letters are then inserted into envelopes automatically, and are delivered by the postman in the usual way.

Pitney Bowes' managing director, John Moody, believes that far from declining, there will be even more paper in the office of the future than there is today. "The use of paper in business is still growing at 4 per cent per year," he says, "and if this growth continues there will be twice as much paper in our offices by the year 2000". Even so, there are develop-



Handling the mail with the Pitney Bowes telephone computer system.

ments under way which could mean that although paper survives, mailing as we know it enters a period of drastic change. Already increasing numbers of businesses are transmitting urgent documents by facsimile, in which the input and output is on paper, but the actual transmission is electronic.

British Telecom will also shortly be introducing teletex, a kind of super-telex which will allow a secretary to type a letter on a word-processing terminal, which could be anywhere in the world.

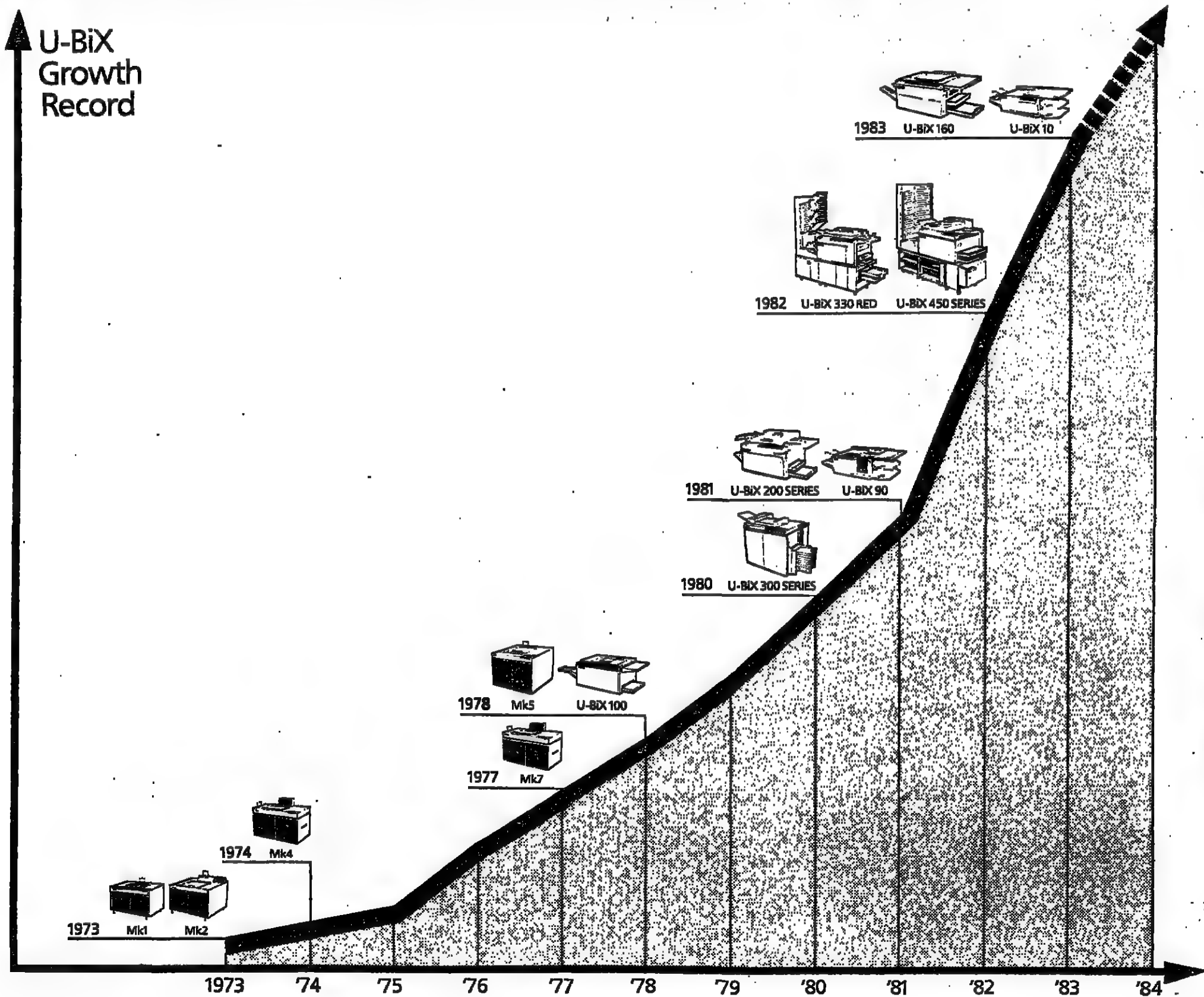
Unlike telex, teletex offers a full character set and an A4 layout, so letter-quality messages can be sent. Teletex will be faster than telex, and cheaper than either telex or mail. It is expected that an A4 page of 1,500 characters will cost a maximum of 4p for the United Kingdom mainland, compared with 30p for telex and 16p for first-class mail - the latter offering only next-day delivery.

Beyond fax and teletex, are the fully electronic systems, in which messages are created, sent, stored, and displayed without any paper being used at all. Electronic mail systems exist today, and many users have found them of value, particularly as a method of inter-office communication which is more effective than the time-honoured memo.

But while fully electronic systems will continue to make inroads, the effect on traditional mailing methods, based on paper is likely to be slight, at least for several years to come. What office managements will see, though, is an increasing variety of more advanced electronic aids to handle that paper more effectively.

RW

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EQUIPMENT LEASING



Pam Ayscough: 'once you have leased it you're stuck with it'

The year 1982 saw a ten year record for the equipment leasing industry. According to the latest available annual report of the Equipment Leasing Association (ELA) computer and office equipment leasing continued buoyant and, at £447m, showed an increase of 26 per cent over the previous year.

When Sir Geoffrey Howe addressed the association last year, he emphasized that the growth of leasing has kept investment in the economy at a higher level than would otherwise be the case. In the UK more than 11 per cent of all new capital investment is financed by way of leasing, and despite the problems of recession and unemployment, the UK accounts for a third of the total European leasing market.

The association admits that leasing offers an attractive alternative source of funding for companies, and there has been an increasing trend towards larger and longer transactions - in 1982 50 per cent by value of all leases were for terms exceeding five years. Many groups, including some of the largest blue chip companies which had previously used leasing mainly for smaller items of plant and equipment, turned in 1982 to leasing as a source of finance for much larger items. Had leasing facilities not been available, it is unlikely, says the association, that that investment by industry during the recession would have taken place on such a scale.

Though leasing is not new - its origins can be traced back to the middle of the nineteenth century mainly in the coal and rail industries - it was not until 1980 that the importance of financial leasing as an alternative to hire purchase and loan facilities was acknowledged. Sir Geoffrey Howe, in his 1980 budget speech, said that leasing

Making sure about the small print

finance "has become an important - in many cases essential - source of finance for investment in manufacturing industry".

In equipment leasing, as practised by members of the ELA, the actual supplier of the equipment is entirely independent of the lessor and the equipment is chosen by the user who then negotiates a lease. Leasing companies are not the equipment vendors or manufacturers, but rather financial institutions who are in business to lease items of capital equipment which their customers wish to use.

Leasing agreements can be very complicated documents and often many lessees sign them without fully realising the commitments and compromises. One reason is the eagerness of the lessee to acquire the equipment, usually at a time when there is a lack of ready cash available.

Although some lessees have said that leasing does away with concerns over obsolescence as the lease agreement can provide for a replacement machine as soon as technology development offers a significant advantage, a cursory sample taken last week revealed that many had leasing agreements which prohibited cancellation in favour of replacement or upgrading of models.

Pam Ayscough, who runs PA Secretarial Services, highlights

some of the problems she has encountered with leasing, saying "once you have leased it, you're stuck with it." She has been left with a word processor which did not come up to standards of expectation or performance. She complains that the leasing charge does not always cover all the extras, necessary - paper, feeders, acoustic hood, software, memory capacity, maintenance, insurance, printworks, diskettes, ribbons, training manuals and so on. On signing a leasing agreement, one should ensure that the cost includes training, for if one has to pay extra to be sent on a training course, this adds further expense, which "can paralyse the cash flow".

Miss Ayscough encounters the same problems when leasing photocopiers, and insists that seldom does the leasing charge include the charge per copy. "This can be substantial if dealing in large quantities even though it may sound small when the manufacturer is talking of the charge for just one copy. In the excitement and eagerness to exchange contracts and get the equipment, one forgets all the extra costs such as collating accessories, supply paper and after sales service."

She, like other members in the survey, felt that rental or outright purchase were preferable so long as these options did

not put a strain on the company's borrowing power or cash flow.

The rule of thumb appears to be to ensure that leasing agreements contain as much of these add-on costs as possible, particularly maintenance and insurance charges. The higher the cost of the equipment being sought, the more likely leasing offers attractions over outright purchase, with the former not involving considerable capital outlay. But some individuals in the survey felt the advantages of leasing "did not come free". The lessor always owned the machine, and therefore it can never be shown as one of the lessee's assets, and usually "the lessee is not allowed to sell the equipment". The fact that the costs of leasing agreements are not normally shown on the balance sheet, and that they are "disguised debts" does offer the possibility, and danger, that they will become forgotten liabilities.

A careless company could find itself incurring losses contributing to overcommitment. Once a lease is taken on, the company is committed regardless of its fortunes. Leases may be the ideal way for a company to use the most effective technology, but they require a continuing awareness and the same self-control as a personal credit card.

Many companies regard a lease as a continuous drain on resources, but the ELA would see them as self-financing, because the resultant increased efficiency generates income to meet the charges and costs.

Initially though, it may be more prudent to rent the equipment on trial, and only commit the company when confident of its competence and cost.

Lynda King Taylor

SATELLITES

Getting messages from above

The network of satellites over the equator launched for the International Satellite Organization (Intelsat) has been described as a communications satellite round the Earth. Those spacecraft have made McLuhan's concept of the "global village" a reality by bringing disasters like earthquakes and famine, the politics of Eastern Europe and Central America, and international sporting and entertainment events into the living room.

Directed broadcasting satellites (DBS) will soon bounce signals direct to the viewers' television set. But this revolution brought by satellite technology is not confined to the domestic services for tele-

vision and telephone subscribers. Business and industry are reaping benefits that will become increasingly noticeable.

Telecommunication links have provided the channel for rapid exchanges of digital data often in different countries. The route over which computer data or a telephone call is carried between, say, Birmingham, England, and Birmingham, Alabama, could be a mixture of terrestrial cable, transatlantic satellite and radio link.

Until recently those details were of little significance to the subscriber. Now there is a surge of interest by large commercial and industrial firms in the prospects of by-passing the

telephone network and transmitting voice and data over special satellite networks.

The stimulus for space communications applied to industry and commerce began in the United States with the formation of Satellite Business Systems (SBS), a jointly owned company of IBM, Aetna Life and Comsat.

In the past most satellite systems operated at a frequency designed to allow the space link to be tied in without difficulty to the terrestrial connection which distributed signals from ground stations to the subscribers.

Many of the current designs of satellites use a new technology and higher frequencies

of operation that allow signals virtually to pepper the terrain beneath without interference.

Small antennae are placed on customers' premises, and as far as the subscriber is concerned the signals arriving at that address make it look as if the satellite conveying them is dedicated solely to that purpose. In fact, it merely means the receiver is filtering out only those messages with the right address code.

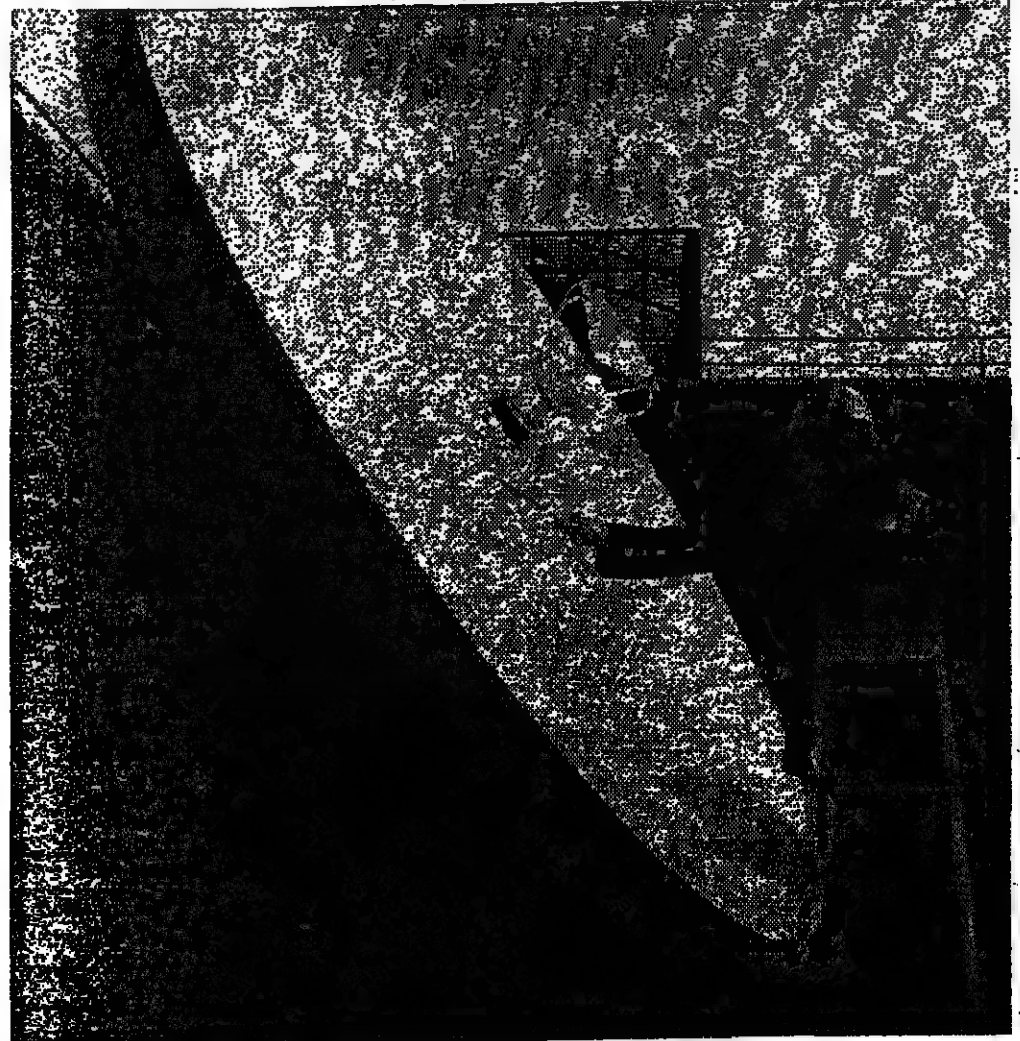
High-speed computer-to-computer data transmissions via this type of satellite are rare. Nevertheless, in the United States newspapers like the *Wall Street Journal* would be almost impossible to deliver without satellites to transmit copy for remote printing. International news magazines like *Time* are in the same position, and *The Economist* uses the technology to supply copy from the UK for its important North American circulation.

Direct receiving antennae are therefore sprouting on the roofs of office blocks and on the edge of industrial estates for collective use across the US. The services in use cover television conferencing and the electronic distribution of mail; in addition to telephone and computer traffic.

Innovation moves more rapidly in the US because of an "open skies" policy which allows a large number of competing satellite services. There are eight American vendors with satellites in orbit, and three of them specialize in business services. Furthermore, a subscriber can buy satellite services in bulk and resell the unused capacity.

An agreement between SBS and British Telecom can open some of these advantages to the multinational firms. Although business exploitation in Europe is at an embryonic stage, the potential savings are there. Large manufacturers or banking and insurance companies in Britain have terrestrial communications networks consisting of thousands of circuits, and those links are paid for according to distance. Earth stations must become an increasingly attractive substitute on price and reliability grows.

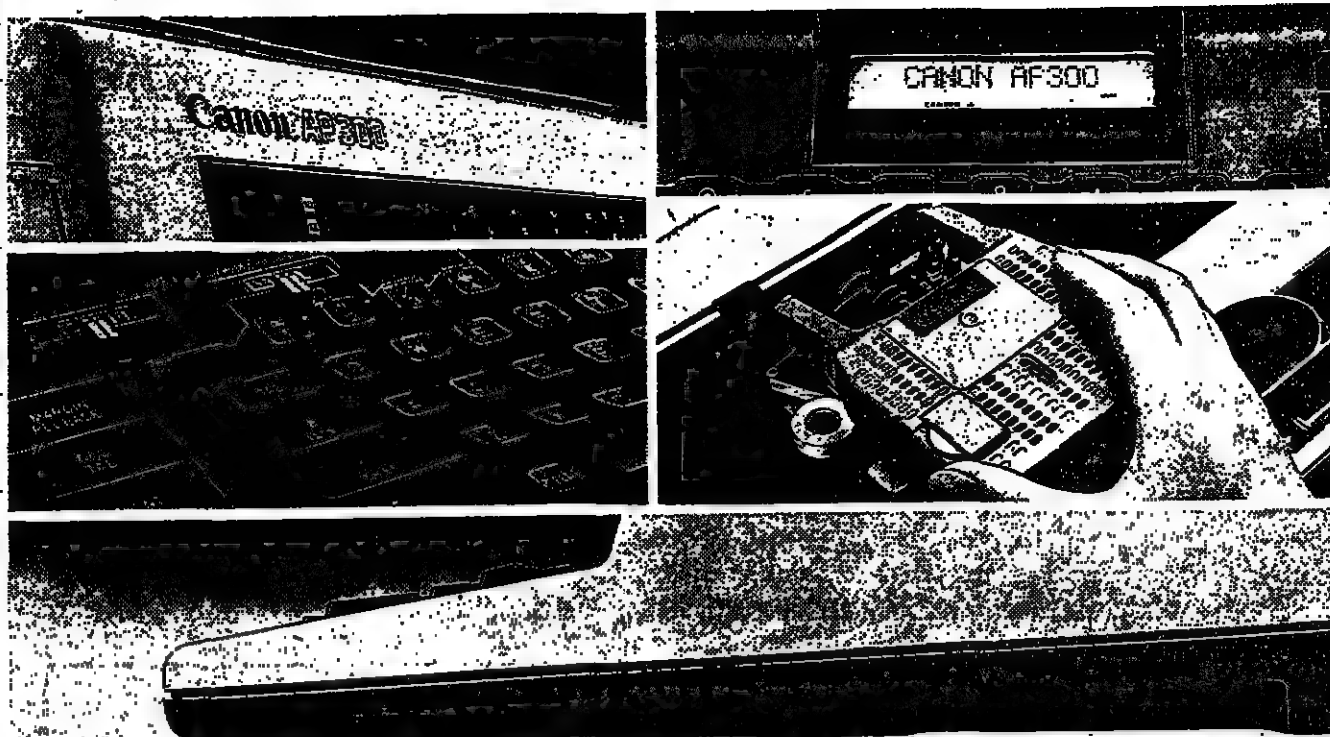
Pearce Wright
Science Editor



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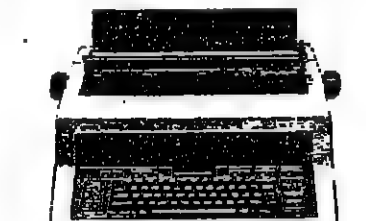
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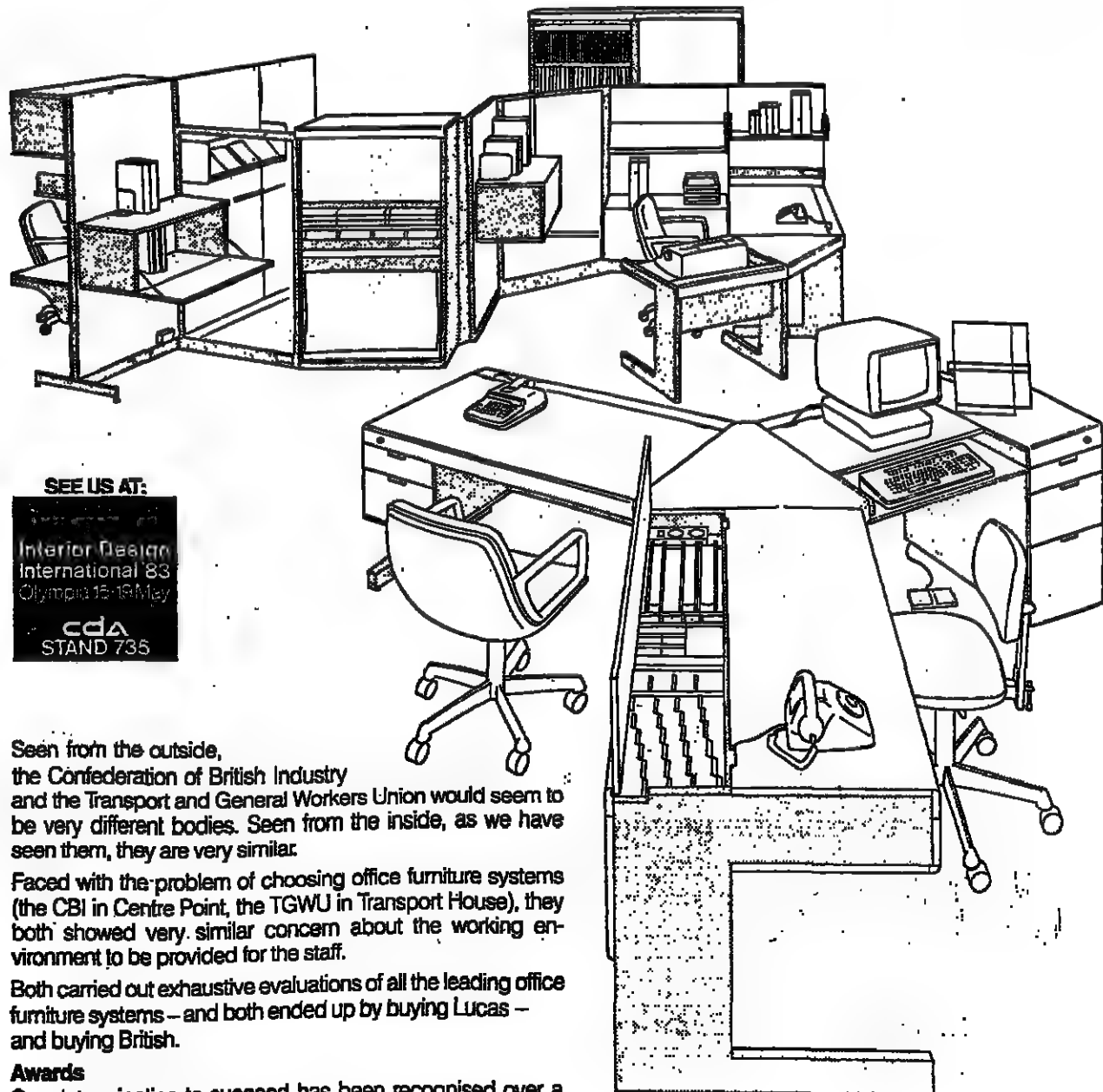
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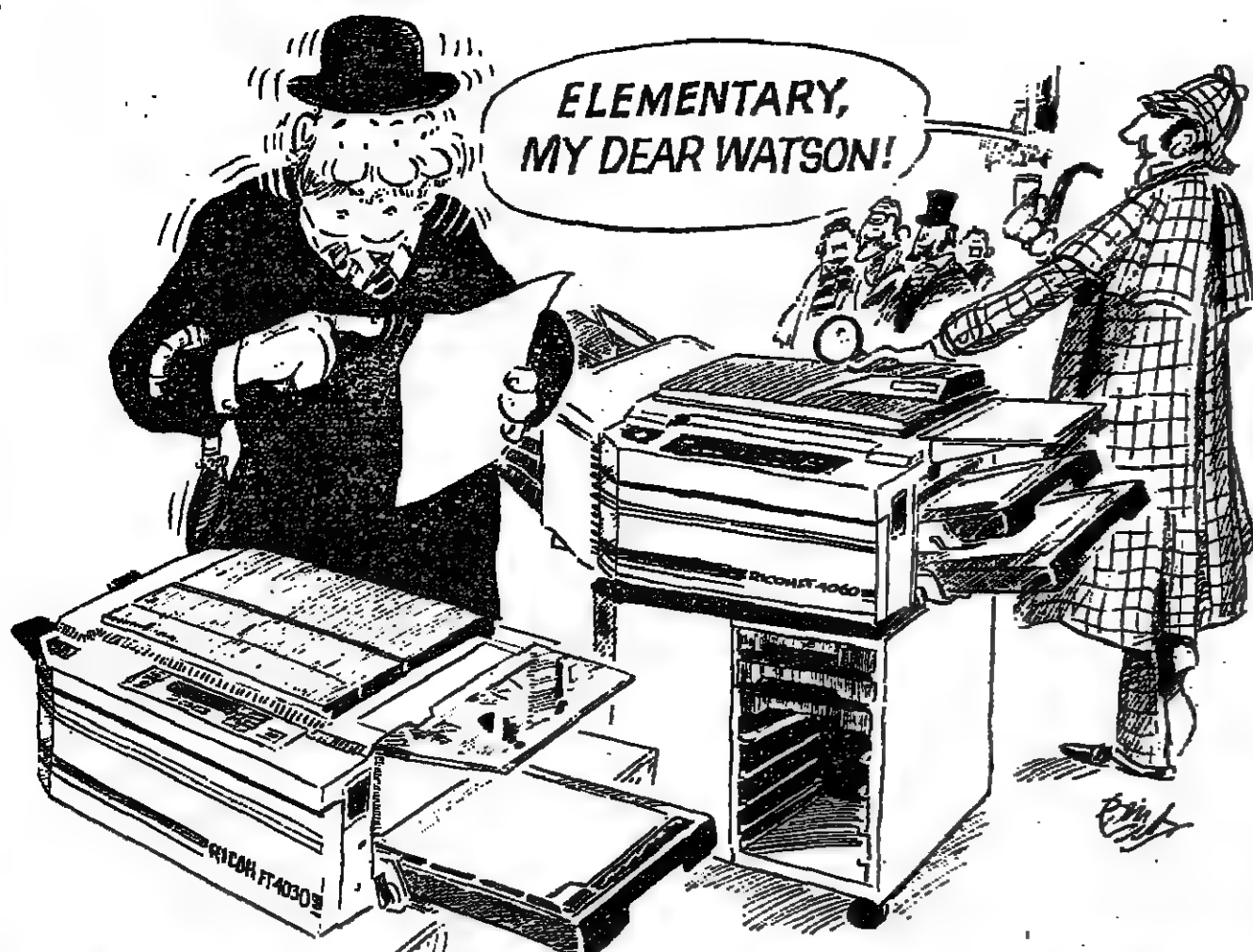
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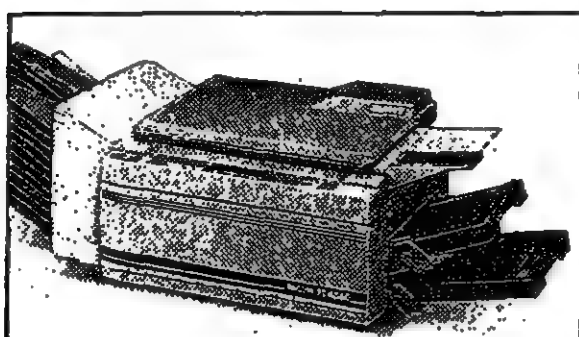
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Since 1969, CMC has enjoyed continual success in the British computer sphere, first as a pioneer of key-to-disc and data entry systems and subsequently as a designer, manufacturer and supplier of advanced local area networks, easy-to-use relational database mini and supermini computers, and innovative software tools.

For the past five of those fourteen years, CMC has been a subsidiary of the worldwide Microdata Corporation. The association has enabled CMC to radically widen its horizons and manufacture in Britain for world, as well as British, markets and to collaborate on international high-technology research and development projects.

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become Microdata UK Limited and CMC's sales and marketing organization will become Microdata Information Systems Limited. Little else changes, we are still 1,000 Britons, we are still expanding at 35% per annum, we are still net exporters earning foreign currency, we

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A new way to say CMC

Lighting engineers have developed a variety of alternatives to traditional office lighting which, they claim, can cut running costs by up to half. Since lighting can account for as much as 30 per cent of the total energy consumed by an office building, the potential savings can be substantial. In addition the new lighting systems offer economies in maintenance and replacement costs. The problem which office managers face is in selecting which of the rival systems best fits the work methods and style of particular premises and in balancing capital outlay against operating savings.

Earlier works' managers did not face the same dilemma. The banks of glowing fluorescent tubes which were a universal feature of offices built in the 1950s and 1960s were available initially only under post-war quotas from the United States. Translated from designs used for factory work their main advantage was that they were considerably brighter than the 60 watt bulbs which, in many instances, they replaced. They were also extremely durable. Many of the fittings installed more than 30 years ago are still in operation.

The sudden focus on energy costs in the mid 1970s unlocked innovation from a variety of areas - in lamp technology, design of fittings and, thanks to the microprocessor, increasingly in switches and control mechanisms. In designing the new office systems the lighting engineers, who maintain that their profession is as much an art as a science, drew on experiences from the theatre and shop window displays as well as industry. A bewildering variety of new techniques each fervently backed by rival experts has resulted.

Arousing most controversy currently is "uplighting", a method which, as its name suggests, directs light up to rather than down from the ceiling - rather like medieval torches. High intensity lamps of the new high pressure sodium, discharge or metal halide type are mounted on walls or inserted in the top of freestanding units which can also be used in recessed ceiling fixtures. The result is a soft umbrella of light bounced back from the ceiling which most people find aesthetically pleasant.

The uplighting technique which is a very old one has come into vogue for advanced modern offices mainly because of its advantage in eliminating

reflections from computer screens. Since the light source is concealed there is no glare.

The main controversy centres on efficiency in energy use. Uplighting systems have not been in general operation for long enough to prove that indirect light alone is sufficient for the majority of office workers - particularly those aged 45 and upwards who generally require higher light intensities than their younger colleagues.

Philips, the world's largest lamp maker, says it "does not approve of uplighting when it is presented as having energy-saving potential; that the high-intensity light sources used are at best only slightly more efficient than the new floor-

VISION

Shedding a bit of light on the subject



Douglas Mutch: reflections on the screen spoil the job.

escent lamps; and as much as 60 per cent of their output can be lost in reflection from even a 'good ceiling.' Although it adds that "Of course uplighting has a role in decorative lighting."

Nevertheless uplighting is being used for a variety of office work in new developments. These include the new Trustee Savings Bank headquarters at Andover, which has installed "Thorn EMI Lighting" uplights and Barclays Bank at Hemel Hempstead which has "Courtney, Pope Lighting" torchier uplights. At Barclays, individual desk lamps were also installed, but according to Mr Douglas Mutch, a director of Courtney, Pope the ambient light appears to have been sufficient. Commenting about the difficulties in

removing heat generated by this type of system Mr Mutch says: "You are probably prepared to pay the penalty in air conditioning if you operate with VDU's because no matter how cool and comfortable the room is, if you've got reflections on that screen you can't do your job."

Another, less controversial solution which is being offered to the problem of reflections off VDU's and microfiche and other vertical screens is a new type of integral ceiling fitting. Bare fluorescent lamps are mounted in a trough in the ceiling. Louvres of slats of polished material bounce light sideways off the trough sides before releasing it downwards into the office. The system is remarkably efficient since most of the light generated eventually reaches the working surface from the bare tube. In traditional light fittings opal diffusers and even the newer prismatic reflectors can cut out a quarter or more of the total light output emitted from the lamp.

If combined with recent developments in lamp technology the cost savings from the new types of fitting can be dramatic. Philips reckons that its new Triphosphor TLD lamps can cut lighting costs by about 50 per cent. The TLD lamp is only 1 inch in diameter compared with about 1½ inches for a conventional lamp and uses krypton instead of argon as a gas filling. Another new development manufactured by both Thorn and Philips are the compact fluorescents which can be plugged into most filament lighting points, last five times longer than a conventional bulb, and use a fraction of the electricity to provide the same amount of light.

A wide variety of microprocessor-inspired new developments have taken place in remote controls, automatic time switches and dimmers. Some of these can be used automatically to turn unwanted office lights off near sunny windows, portable infra-red control boxes (similar to those used for television sets) could turn office lights on or off up or down. Lights can be dialed up or down via the office telephone. However, before getting too carried away by new technology it might pay the energy-conscious works manager to look at the mundane matter of cleaning existing light fittings. Experts calculate that dirt can cut light by more than 20 per cent.

Patricia Tisdall

STORAGE

Filing away

"Don't file it - I may want to look at it again" runs the old office joke, but its days may be numbered. From the humble cabinet to advanced microfilm systems, and from electronic storage to optical disks read by lasers, office filing is going through a revolution, which could mean that the overstuffed drawer bulging with ragged carbon copies may soon become a thing of the past.

Many offices will never see the more advanced technologies, and will continue to rely on paper files, but even here there are better ways of doing things. Today, the variety of material which has to be stored is far more varied than in the past, and designers of office furniture have risen to the challenge.

A key feature of today's office filing systems is flexibility. One company specializing in filing and storage, Flexiform, points out that as more organizations use electronic office equipment, so the needs have expanded beyond document filing to take in computer printout, microfiche, and other output from data processing machines.

As a result, a system has been developed which takes care of both general filing requirements, and the more specialized needs of the computerized office. The interior of cabinets can be planned in several ways, and redesigned as filing systems change.

Another office supplier, Lucas Furniture Systems, has developed personal filing systems built into desks: in this case, people who lose files can blame only themselves. Other freestanding units can accommodate computer printout, tape spools and disk packs, as well as traditional filing.

Often it is the sheer volume of information which causes problems of retrieval. Quite apart from taking up a lot of space, bulk files can present difficulties in indexing. If annotation is too simple, information retrieval can be very time-consuming and perhaps ineffective. At the other extreme, over-elaboration can lead to a vast number of indexes and cross-references which soon defeat their object.

It is for these reasons that microfilm is expected to have such a bright future. One of the companies offering microfilming service, MAB, estimates that up to 98 per cent of filing space can be released for other uses by adopting microfilm or microfiche. A single unit, occupying the same space as a normal four-drawer cabinet can hold more than 1,750,000 documents or 57,000 drawings.

Microfilm and microfiche systems not only reduce bulky paper files to manageable proportions, they also lend themselves to indexing which can make information retrieval much quicker.

A technology known as computer-assisted retrieval (CAR) marries microfilm with computing systems based on the microprocessor. The business research organization, Frost & Sullivan, has estimated that the US market for electronic filing and CAR microfilm should increase at least

35 per cent each year up to 1987, to reach \$356.22m.

Kodak is considered to have the largest share of the CAR market, and its Oracle microfilm equipment is an example of what the technology can offer. Documents are filmed as they arrive in random order, after only a single rough-sort. Each one is allocated an eight-digit code, which appears under the page. To retrieve information, the microfilm is loaded into a reader, the appropriate code number is entered on a keyboard, and the document is located automatically in only a few seconds. If a copy is required, the machine can handle that, too.

A British company, Allen Microfilm products (AMP), has developed a random retrieval reader with the help of the Department of Industry. The motorized reader is linked to a microprocessor-based keypad, known as the Blip 'Chip'. By entering the required frame number, a single image out of 2,400 can be retrieved in a time between one and 40 seconds. This equipment will later be linked to a reader-printer, and finally to a computer, to make a complete CAR system.

As an increasing quantity of office information is created electronically, files can be stored and retrieved without any intermediate use of paper records. The OFIS 1 system of

Burroughs, which is undergoing trials with the Central Electricity Generating Board as part of the Department of Industry's automated office project, includes the creation of documents electronically by word processor, and storage in the OFISfile system.

This approach to electronic filing and retrieval can also accept output from ordinary typewriters, which is first passed through an optical character recognition reader. To locate a document, OFISfile needs only an instruction, phrased in plain language, containing a name, date, or other words in the text being sought. The equipment is about the size of a small office filing cabinet, but can store the equivalent of 80,000 A4 pages of text - 160 million characters.

Rather more modest in its capacity, but useful at locations such as telephone switchboards, is an information storage and retrieval system offered by Intercom Communication Systems. This is essentially an electronic discovery, which can be accessed in several ways. It can store more than 3,000 entries, and will display the required information in less than two seconds, even if interrogated with data which is incomplete.

For mass storage of information, there are great hopes of

optical systems. Technically, there are various approaches to optical storage, though most companies use laser beams to read data which has been encoded digitally on a disk about the size of a long-play record.

The thing that gives optical storage its edge over other techniques is sheer capacity. With Philips's Megadisc optical recorder, a single disk can store 2500 A4 pages of a document scanned in the normal way. But if the information is compressed by removing all the white space, storage can be increased to 50,000 pages.

The optical disk has been seen as a mass storage medium, which could be used for archives which users wish to consult, but not change. But this limited concept was turned on its head by the announcement last April from Matsushita of Japan that it has developed an optical disk on which data can be erased and re-recorded millions of times.

It has a maximum capacity of 1,000 million characters, and the longest time required to access any part of the stored data is less than half-a-second.

It is a long way from the grubby green filing cabinet groaning with out-of-date papers to the sleek laser disks encoded with megabytes of information, and although it may be time to pension off the cabinet, no one suggests that the highest of high-tech will take over completely.

RW

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|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------------------------------|
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| POWER ASSISTED CLUTCH | | - | - | - | - | S | S | S | S |
| POWER ASSISTED STEERING | | O | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| LAMINATED WINDSHIELD | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| STEERING COLUMN LOCK | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| THERMOVISCOUS FAN | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| REVERSING LAMP | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| MULTIPURPOSE SOCKET/CIGAR LIGHTER | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |

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Parking car is no reason for not banning driver

Haime v Walklett
Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Glidewell
[Judgment delivered May 11]

The facts that a driver had merely reversed across a street, and intended to drive a further two hundred yards, park his car and return home on foot were not capable of amounting to special reasons for not disqualifying him pursuant to section 93(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 where he was guilty of driving having consumed excess alcohol contrary to section 6 of the Act.

The defendant was seen by a police officer on July 1, 1981 to attempt to reverse his car across a street. The car's engine stalled twice, and twice mounted the pavement coming to rest where the police officer stood. The vehicle was not displaying lights.

The officer administered a breath test which proved positive, and a subsequent blood test at the police station indicated an excess concentration of alcohol in the defendant's blood, in the ratio of 304mg per 100ml of blood.

He was convicted before the justices under section 6 of the 1972 Act. The defendant stated that he knew that he was drunk, that his intention was to drive the car two hundred yards to a car park, leave the vehicle there and walk home.

The justices accepted that the shortness of the distance actually driven, coupled with the defendant's intention, were special reasons for not disqualifying the defendant under section 93(1) of the 1972 Act.

The court had been referred to the case of *Coombes v Kehoe* ([1972] 1 WLR 797), which had decided that

the case of *James v Hall* (The Times, June 26, 1968), in which the defendant had moved his car from the road into his friend's driveway, and in which the justices had held that that constituted a special reason not to disqualify him, was one which should be confined to its own facts and should not be interpreted as stating a principle that parking a car was a special reason for not disqualifying.

It was difficult to distinguish this case from *Coombes v Kehoe*, save in so far as here there was no finding that the road on which the defendant was driving was a busy one. However, if it was sufficiently busy that there should be a public house there, it could not be said that the defendant's driving across the road would not constitute a danger.

The justices had therefore erred in law in holding that there were special reasons for not disqualifying the defendant. The appeal would be allowed.

Mr Justice Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Beswick & Co, Stoke-on-Trent; Walters & Welch, Stafford.

Same justices should rectify mistakes

Morris v Grant
Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Glidewell
[Judgment delivered May 11]

Where justices exercised their power under section 142 of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980 to reopen proceedings to rectify a mistake made in passing sentence, the rehearing should be before the same bench of justices, and where three or more justices had sat, a majority had to sit at the rehearing.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by Peter Charles George Morris by way of case stated by the Walton-on-Thames Justices on the question whether they were entitled to exercise their power under section 142 of the 1980 Act so as to vary a sentence passed by a differently constituted bench of justices.

Mr Allen Dyer for the defendant; Mr J. Mervyn Roberts for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE ACKNER said that the defendant was convicted before the justices of an offence of driving while under the influence of drink or drugs contrary to section 5(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972. He was fined £100, and his driving licence was endorsed with 10 penalty points. In purported pursuance of section 19 and Schedule 7 of the Transport Act 1981, the justices later realized that they should have disqualified the defendant from driving for a minimum of 12 months under section 93(1) of the 1972 Act.

They served a notice upon him that the case would be reopened. At the rehearing the bench consisted of

three justices, only one of whom had sat at the original hearing. They fined the defendant £100 and disqualified him from driving for 12 months with no reference to penalty points.

According to section 142(4)(a) of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980, the court had to be constituted in the same manner as the court by which the original sentence was imposed. That meant that the same justices should sit.

Under subsection (b), where three or more justices had sat, as was the case here, a majority of them must have sat at the original hearing. In this case that had not been done, so that the appeal would be allowed, so as to restore the original decision.

Mr Justice Glidewell agreed.

Solicitors: Amery-Parkes & Co, Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Defaulting ratepayer should be heard before committal

Regina v Poole Justices, Ex parte Fleet
Before Mr Justice Forbes
[Judgment delivered May 5]

On an application for a warrant for committal to prison of a ratepayer who had failed to pay rates for which he was liable, justices were always under a duty to inquire into the ratepayer's presence as to whether his failure to pay had been because of wilful refusal or culpable neglect on his part, before they considered the issue of such a warrant.

Mr Justice Forbes so held in the Queen's Bench Division, granting an application by Mr Derek Arthur Lucas Fleet for judicial review by way of certiorari and mandamus to quash the issue by the Poole Justices on January 12, 1983 of a warrant of committal against him under section 102 of the General Rate Act 1967 and to direct the justices to make an inquiry into the applicant's presence pursuant to section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act before considering the issue of any further such warrant.

Mr John Bryant for the applicant; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that the applicant had been in considerable financial difficulties. The rating authority had sought a warrant of committal in December 1982 and the justices had at that time conducted an inquiry in accordance with section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act and had postponed the issue of a warrant on the condition that the applicant paid £50 per week to the rating authority.

They had, however, fixed the term of imprisonment which he would be required to serve if a warrant were ever issued. Having paid £50 for several weeks, the applicant had found himself in further financial difficulty.

ies which rendered payment impossible.

He had written to the justices' clerk to that effect, but upon a fresh application for a warrant in January 1983, the justices had issued the warrant without making an inquiry into the applicant's presence as to the reason for his failure to pay.

In *R v Chickering Justices, Ex parte Collins* ([1982] 1 WLR 334), it had been held that justices had no duty to inform an offender before a warrant of committal was issued for non-payment of fines where its issue had previously been postponed under section 77(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 on conditions which the offender had then failed to fulfil.

However, in his Lordship's judgment, the decision in that case did not apply to cases under the 1967 Act, since in rating cases it was necessary for the rating authority to prove to the court the failure to pay before the warrant was issued; in cases concerning fines, all that was necessary was to consult the court records to see whether the fines had been paid into court or not.

The situation under section 102 of the 1967 Act was sufficiently different from that under section 77 of the 1980 Act for his Lordship to apply a dictum of Lord Fraser of Tullybelton in *In re Forrest* ([1981] AC 1038, 1045) and to hold that the justices were obliged to conduct an inquiry into the applicant's presence with regard to his reason for non-payment when considering an application for a warrant of committal against him.

Accordingly, certiorari would issue to quash the justices' decision and mandamus would go to direct the justices, if the rating authority applied again for such a warrant, to conduct an inquiry as required by section 103(1)(a) of the 1967 Act.

Solicitors: Metson Cross & Co for Triggs Turner & Co, Guildford.

Council to pay £25,000 for bad faith in property deal

Brenner v Harrogate London Borough Council
Before Mr Justice Price, QC
[Judgment delivered May 6]

The plaintiff in this action, Mr Ronnie John Brenner, was held by Mr Justice Price, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge of the Chancery Division, entitled to succeed in a claim for £25,735 damages against the London Borough of Harrogate because of their breach of duty in failing to negotiate with him in all good faith for the acquisition of his interest in 15 Crescent Road, Harrogate, London.

He had claimed that they had failed to comply with the terms of a purchase notice under section 180 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 relating to the property and had not proceeded to enforce within a reasonable period a notice to treat.

Mr P R Brunner for the plaintiff; Mr John Grove for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that following the refusal of an application for planning permission, the plaintiff's solicitors in March 1975 served a notice under section 180 of the 1971 Act requiring the defendants to purchase his freehold interest in 15 Crescent Road.

On May 12 the defendants' solicitors said that they were willing to comply with the plaintiff's purchase notice and the plaintiff regarded that letter as a notice to treat in respect of the property.

Then, however, negotiations and correspondence between the parties from then until 1977, when a valuation put on the property by a representative of the plaintiff was rejected by the defendants, and there was a lapse in the negotiations

leading the plaintiff to an inference that the defendants had not any intention to pursue their rights under the notice to treat. But in 1979 notices of entry were served on the plaintiff under Part VIII of the Housing Act 1974, in effect reopening the question of the purchase of the property.

In proceedings begun that year by the plaintiff he was granted a declaration by Judge Rubin on November 26, 1980 that the notice to treat of 1975 was no longer effective, also that the notices of entry served by the defendants were of no effect.

The plaintiff's case was founded on a claim that the long negotiations for the acquisition of the plaintiff's interest in the property had not been conducted by the defendants in all good faith and that they had acted negligently and in breach of a duty so to act by not complying with the terms of the notice to treat or proceeding to enforce it within a reasonable period of time or at all.

It had been asserted on behalf of the plaintiff - and without contradiction by counsel for the defendants - that there was a duty to negotiate in all good faith for the acquisition of the plaintiff's property.

Particulars had been given of the loss and damage said to have been suffered by the way of lost rental and of rates paid on vacant property also of the cost of a report which had been made for him on a possible rental income from letting.

A similar report on the defendant's side was not tendered despite an interlocutory order that reports for both parties should be prepared.

The plaintiff failed in evidence he had expected that the whole

result from the negotiations for purchase would have meant merely putting them before a committee of the council for approval. Because of that, he had committed himself to the spending of a lot of money, and the details he provided of his expenditure had not been seriously challenged.

Counsel for the defendants had called no evidence, which seemed an extraordinary way of defending an action in which allegations of bad faith had been made against them. He had relied instead on a series of incoherent and illuminating submissions both on the law and the facts, which had helped to clarify the issues to be decided.

The strongest of his submissions was one to the effect that even if the defendants had failed in their duty it did not give the plaintiff a right to a remedy in damages.

It seemed from the documents before the court that from 1977 onwards the defendants had not acted in good faith for the acquisition of the plaintiff's interest.

The documents showed a reprehensible degree of bad faith which was confirmed by the defendants' failure to produce any explanation of their conduct by appropriate evidence. It seemed therefore that the plaintiff was entitled to succeed in his claim.

As to the estimated figures for lost rental in respect of the property, the plaintiff's figures would be accepted by the court, although admittedly unsatisfactory, since the defendant, despite the interlocutory order, had failed to produce any.

Solicitors: T. Richards & Co, Mr T. R. B. Tierney, Wood Green.

Petition an abuse of process

In re a Company (No 001573 of 1983)
Before Mr Justice Harman
[Judgment delivered May 6]

His Lordship dismissed as an abuse of the process of the court a petition in the Chancery Division to wind up a company where an order for costs against the company had been obtained in Scotland and the petition was issued the same afternoon, based on the prospective debt created by the order for costs and on other evidence suggesting insolvency.

Mr L J Libbert, QC and Mr John B. Briggs for the company; Mr Jeffrey Littman for the petitioner.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said the company moved to restrain the petitioner from advertising the petition, and to have the petition dismissed as an abuse of process. The company carried on business by recovering coal from a site in south Scotland under a lease which was the company's major asset. The company was in grave financial difficulties.

Following the breakdown of negotiations with the petitioner for the assignment of the lease, the petitioner negotiated direct with the landlord for the grant of a new lease. The company's lease contained the term, remarkable to English eyes, that the lease would be "irrevocable" (which his Lordship assumed meant "forfeited") if a petition to wind up the company were presented.

The petitioner's agreement with the landlord provided that if a petition were presented before April 1, 1983, the landlord would terminate the lease and grant a new one to the petitioner. It was thus very clearly in the petitioner's interest that the petition should be presented before that date.

On February 10, 1983 the petitioner served a statutory demand for payment of about £2,700. The company adopted the wholly wrong and improper course of beginning an action in the Chancery Division to restrain the petitioner from proceeding on the statutory demand, on the ground that the debt was disputed. That was false and unjustified, but an interim order restraining presentation was obtained.

However, as a result of advice

from the company's solicitors the debt was paid in full on March 14 and on March 15 the company's action was dismissed with costs.

On the same day, the order for costs having been made in the morning, the petitioner presented a petition, based on the allegation that "the said costs not yet having been paid or agreed, your petitioner is the prospective creditor of the company in the taxed or agreed sum of its costs" estimated at £1,000. Further allegations were made to show insolvency and improper conduct of the company's affairs.

The company moved to restrain advertisement of the petition and the matter thus came before his Lordship.

Mr Libbert said that a "prospective debt" meant a certain liability at a future date, such as a bill of exchange due in three months, and that unless the amount could be specified there was no prospective debt.

Second, he said that in any event the petition was not presented for the purpose of obtaining a winding up, but to enable the petitioner to obtain the benefit of the company's lease of its Scottish premises.

Mr Littman said that there was no reason to limit prospective creditors to those claiming fixed amounts and that the petitioner certainly had a winding-up order and had presented and prosecuted the petition as required by the rules and provided the security set by the registrar.

He suggested that the company was plainly insolvent, and that the evidence disclosed a case for investigation of its affairs.

He asserted that *Braynton Finance Ltd v De Vries* (No 3) ([1976] 2 Ch 63) showed that the court was not concerned with the reasons why the petitioner had presented his petition so long as he had sufficient grounds to found it. The company's action on the basis of false evidence disputing the original debt so blackened its hands that the court should refuse it equitable relief.

Neither side's arguments met the true point raised here. First, it was true law that the Companies Court was not a debt-collecting court, the proper remedy being execution on a judgment, a distress or a garnishee order.

The true position was that a petition must be a source of risk to persons ordinarily using the floor, danger in the accepted sense of a "reasonably foreseeable cause of injury to anybody acting in a way in which a human being might be expected to act in the circumstances which may reasonably be expected to occur": *Closs v Steel Co of Wales Ltd* ([1962] AC 367, 412).

The angle iron was in its proper place in the area regularly used for storing such necessary equipment although not stacked, and was not a reasonably foreseeable cause for injury to any person using that area. Did the subsection require the whole width of the road to be kept free from obstructions or was the duty imposed discharged by providing a passage of adequate width which was free from obstructions?

The subsection applied to every length of road in which vehicles or conveyors ran, or not fewer than 10 persons walked to and from their working places. If it was such a road it had to be unobstructed.

But as the machinery in a factory obstructed but was not the sort of obstruction to which section 28(1) of the Factories Act 1961 referred (see the judgment in *Pengeley v Bell Punch Co Ltd*) so a conveyor obstructed but was not the sort of obstruction to which section 34(1)(b) of the 1954 Act referred.

They did not have to comply with the safety requirements of the subsection.

Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Slade agreed.

Solicitors: Brian Thompson & Partners, Manchester; Mr C. T. Peach, Doncaster.

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 572.8 down 4.1
FT 100s 81.15 up 0.17
FT All Shares 419.34 down 1.56

Bargains 20.768
Times Mail USM Index 157.8 up 23.59
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones 8691.58 up 23.59
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 543.02 down 2.30
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average latest 1220.30 down 9.38

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5885 up 35pts
Index 83.9 down 0.1
DM 3.8275 unchanged
FF 11.51 down 0.150
Yen 363 down 1.25

Dollar
Index 121.4 down 0.5
DM 24.386 down 68pts
Gold \$443.75 up 30.25

NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$443.00
Sterling \$1.5885

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2

Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month 13 1/4-13 1/2

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period April 6 to May 3,
1983 inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Comb Tech 43 1/2 up 7 1/2
Burt Harvey 190 up 1 1/2
Int Thomson 580 up 37 1/2
Northgate Ex 44 1/2 up 4 1/2
Rustenberg 580 up 4 1/2
Massey Ferguson 415 up 30 1/2
Britoil 1780 down 8 1/2
Exco Int 57 1/2 down 20 1/2
Gen Accident 420 down 8 1/2
Hawker Siddeley 3980 down 8 1/2
Royal Ind 518 down 17 1/2
Yarrow & Co 263 1/2 down 10 1/2

TODAY

Interim BOC Grp, Cambrian & General, Lloyds & Scottish, Warner Estates Hlgs.
Finals: Bank of Ireland, Hawtin, Holt Lloyd, Kuala Selangor Rubber, Seacombe Marshall & Camplan.
Economic statistics: Provisional figures of vehicle production (April).

Record day
for LIFFE

A record total of 7,672 contracts was traded on the London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday. Dealers said that sterling was very active, recording 2,401 contracts, as holders of the currency grew nervous about the election.

But Mr John Barish, chairman of LIFFE, said that the volume of business showed that the exchange was being used for its proper purpose of a hedge in times of uncertainty. He expected some of the extra business to be permanent.

● **BID EXTENSION:** Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries is extending its £26m takeover for Davenport Brewery (Holdings) for a further week. The Wolverhampton board took the decision after winning an encouraging 20 per cent level of acceptance from Davenport shareholders at the first closing date for its increased offer terms. This gives Wolverhampton effective control of 33 per cent of Davenport shares when the acceptances are added to shares previously purchased in the stockmarket.

● **PROFITS RISE:** Matthew Hall, the plant and oil rig engineering group, managed to increase its profits last year despite the recession which has affected companies in the same sector so severely. On sales up from £329.25m to £413.15m, pretax profits rose 12.5 per cent to £11.64m.

● **EXPANSION:** Buzel is paying £9.6m to buy seven separate US companies to expand its distribution division. The seven operate as a group and total profits last year were £3.8m on turnover of £50m. Further payments, of up to £12.8m will be made by Buzel over the next three years provided profits of at least £3.8m per year are achieved. Total net worth is £7.7m.

● **EARNINGS DOUBLE:** Kwik-Fit, the tyre and exhaust fitting company, more than doubled its profits from £1.3m to £2.9m last year and expects more improvement this year. It intends to open a further 11 "Stop & Go" maintenance depots and another two transmission repair shops.

WALL STREET

Stocks
slip
lower

New York (AP-Dow Jones) Stocks were slipping back yesterday after a short-lived rally.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down more than three points. It had pulled ahead to a gain of about 1 1/2 during the morning.

Trading was active. Oil stocks were strong, based on expectation of improved profitability.

Blue chip and glamour stocks led the market's rally over the last few weeks but analysts said individual investors were stepping up their participation in the market and focusing on some of the issues that have remained in the background.

Mr Ralph Block, vice-president for Investment Strategy at Moseley Hallgarten Estabrook & Wooten, said that except for the oil the market would be broadly lower.

American Telephone & Telegraph was 68 1/2 off 1/2; International Business Machines 116 1/2 (unchanged); General Motors 68 1/2 off 1/2; Honeywell 121 1/2 off 1/2; Texas 36 1/2 up 1/2; Monsanto 87 1/2 up 1/2; Disney 75 off 1/2; Lockheed 116 1/2 off 1/2; and Dow Chemical 33 up 1/2.

Asphalt Oil was up 1/2 to 35 1/2; Exxon up 1/2 to 45 1/2; K-Mart off 1/2 to 32 1/2; CSK up 1/2 to 66 1/2; Hewlett Packard, unchanged at 82; Homestate up 1/2 to 33 1/2; Raytheon up 1/2 to 51 1/2; Teletype off 1/2 to 144 1/2; and Data General down 1/2 to 61 1/2.

MacGregor backs EEC protection

By Patricia Clough

Mr MacGregor, the chairman of the British Steel Corporation, said yesterday that the best chances for British Steel lay in continued membership of the European Community.

There were no longer any opportunities for Britain to compete in the other main markets - North America, Japan and the Third World. "These markets are no longer exist," he said.

Withdrawal from the Community would mean measures to protect British Steel from European competition and corresponding measures against Britain by remaining members. This would create a "knock on effect" which would damage the manufacturing industries and exports.

Mr MacGregor's remarks, made to the House of Lords select committee examining the impact of Community membership on British trade, came at the start of an election campaign in which the Labour Party will be urging withdrawal from the Community.

On balance, he said, membership of the Community has benefited British Steel. The Community had protected it from the worst of the growing competition by Third World countries who sell steel below cost to earn foreign currency.

The EEC steel regime's industrial intervention and support for its own industries has checked further deterioration in the hard hit British Steel industry. However, it has failed consistently to cope with the crisis in the industry.

Mr MacGregor warned, however, that both the British and the Continental steel industries would have to continue their process of shrinkage and rationalization to adapt to the new European markets.

● **Luxembourg (Reuters)** - The European Court of Justice has rejected appeals by Klöckner-Werke, the steel company, against a fine imposed on it by the European Commission for exceeding production quotas.

Officials said the court rejected every argument advanced by Klöckner against the fine of more than £2m (£1.26m). Klöckner lawyers said the quotas set the company were unfairly low.

McMahon speech may be reversal of policy

Bank of England chief defends big dividend rises paid by clearers

By Graham Seargeant

Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England, has sprung to the defence of the big dividend increases announced by London clearing banks.

In an apparent reversal of Bank thinking, Mr McMahon told representatives of foreign banks in the City yesterday that the prime concern of any bank or supervisor was "that the total resources available to it should be maintained at a level which preserves its reputation for prudent management. How a bank elects to meet this objective is a less important question."

The erosion of capital relative to the scale and quality of

loans had been eroded in many countries and "this trend cannot be allowed to continue", he said. But it was up to each bank to balance the need to build up resources from profits and to pay dividends to make it easier to raise new capital by rights issues.

Several banks, particularly Barclays, have stressed that they must make their own decisions after a speech by Mr Peter Cooke, head of supervision at the Bank of England. He had suggested that they should maximize retained profits rather than pay out big dividends.

The House of Commons Treasury committee had quoted Mr Cooke's speech with approval. But Mr McMahon said



McMahon: cautious analysis

yesterday that the remarks were interpreted by some observers in much too narrow a way. The actions of the major British banks have, in our view, been reasonable in taking

account of these broader considerations."

Mr McMahon said that, despite the progress made in rescheduling foreign debts, "it would, however, be too much to claim that confidence has been fully restored."

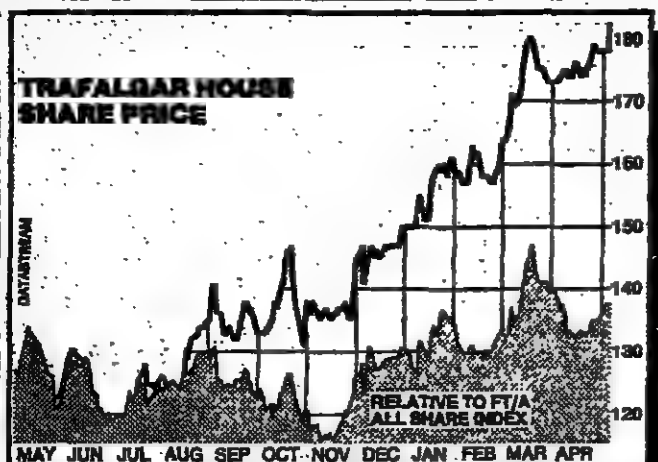
He urged banks not to be too cautious by trying to switch their loans away from doubtful areas of the world. In particular, they should continue to put funds into the interbank market even though the banks borrowing those funds might have doubtful debts on their books.

In the longer term, banks should become less dependent on short-term money from the wholesale markets. But, at the moment, maintenance of inter-bank lines "is a crucial part of the burden-sharing"

In a much more cautious analysis of recovery than many outside the Bank of England have made, Mr McMahon said that bankers were in difficult waters and were bound to remain so for some time.

As world leaders prepare to discuss Third World debt problems at Williamsburg, the deputy governor expounded what appears to be the characteristic middle position of the British Government.

He attacked the attitudes in some influential American circles, claiming that central banks "cannot responsibly expose the international financial system to the kinds of risk that might be involved in a generalised hands-off policy". The balance of lending should switch from private banks to international institutions such as the IMF.



Trafalgar buys two liners for £46m

By Jeremy Warner

Trafalgar House, the property construction and Cunard shipping group, is to buy two luxury cruise liners from a Norwegian group for £73m (£46.5m).

The purchase is in line with the group's declared policy of reducing its dependence on property and concentrating on shipping and construction. Trafalgar House, which yesterday announced an increase in pretax profits for the half-year to the end of March from £27.7m to £33.5m, is acquiring the two liners, the Vistafjord and the Sagafjord, from Norwegian American Cruises next October.

The group said that its existing passenger fleet, which includes the QE2, is already expected to produce record results this year and that the acquisition of the two ships would assist Cunard in maintaining its progress without incurring the high cost of new construction or adding to world tonnage.

Trafalgar's half-year profits

Market unimpressed as Royal returns to profit

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Royal Insurance, the second of the composites to report first-quarter figures, showed a turn round from losses to profit thanks to much lower claims from bad weather. However, the stock market was still disappointed and the shares fell 17 1/2 to 518p.

Compared with a loss of £3.5m in the first quarter of 1982, Royal reported a £9.2m pretax profit. Weather claims, largely in the United Kingdom, were well down from the exceptional £38m cost in the comparable period but at £15.5m were still higher than normal.

However, allowing for this and for a £7.9m boost to the underwriting loss from currency changes, the underlying picture on the underwriting side remains gloomy.

The first quarter underwriting loss was virtually unchanged at £64.2m. In the United States, Royal should make about the underwriting loss, boosted by sterling's drop, rose from

£28.7m to £43.5m and the operating ratio rose from 115.2 per cent to 117.9 per cent.

The deterioration was across the board with the exception of homeowners and commercial automobile lines and Royal is taking action to push up rates at the expense of some loss of market share.

Royal expects the US to show improvement later in the year and there are also signs of competition easing in the United Kingdom, although underwriting losses excluding weather claims showed a marked deterioration in the first quarter.

Mr John Howard, chief general manager, described the results as disappointing despite the turn round.

He said there was no reason why the next three quarters of the year should be any worse than in 1982 which suggests that the company's outlook for 1983 is still pessimistic compared with 1982's pretax profit of £96.5m.

American and British spokesmen said yesterday that the meeting had been useful.

Fears that the United States would use the occasion to press for greater restraint on East-West trade proved ill-founded.

Instead it was the Americans who came in for criticism, especially from the Japanese, over the strength of the dollar and its adverse impact on world growth, debt and trade.

Linford bid for Key Markets

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Linford Holdings has topped by £3m the £34.8m deal in which Fitch Lovell would sell Key Markets to Safeway.

The announcement came last night on the eve of the expected publication of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on Linford's takeover bid for all of Fitch Lovell.

Linford said that if the Safeway deal was approved by Fitch shareholders at the extraordinary meeting to be held on May 20, and because otherwise unsuccessful, Linford would not renew its offer for all of Fitch Lovell.

Linford's increase in its cash bid is for the share capital and reserves of Key Markets. The offer is disclosed in a circular to Fitch shareholders which urges that the Safeway deal be turned down.

When Mr Alec Monk, Linford's chairman, launched his £87m takeover bid for Fitch last September, a key element was the proposed merger of the Key Markets supermarkets chain with Linford's Gateway chain.

The two together would account for around 4 per cent of the grocery market. Linford's pretax profits for the year ended in April are estimated to be up nearly 40 per cent to £16.5m, Mr Monk has told his own shareholders. It is proposed to recommend a final dividend of 10p a share, making 16p net for the year, an increase of 33 per cent.

Central borrowing fears confirmed

By Our Financial Staff

Central government borrowing requirement totalling £1.19bn in April, according to figures released by the Treasury yesterday.

A surprising reduction in tax receipts and the apparently buoyant level of central government spending contributed to the relatively high figure.

However, the markets had already been led to expect a fairly large figure. The April outturn compares with a revised £2.73bn in March, which was much higher than expected because of a bunching of spending at the end of the last financial year. The COBR in April 1982 was £327m.

The April figure appears to have confirmed the fears of those in the City who believe that government spending and borrowing is running ahead of target and some analysts were suggesting yesterday that the level of government borrowing could presage another set of

poor money supply figures in the May banking month.

There are a number of factors which appear to have pushed up the April total. Borrowing from the National Loans Fund by local authorities was well up on the same month a year ago at £400m and it was stressed by officials that this would not necessarily feed through into the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

Departmental balances also rose sharply by £568m and it was suggested that departments were drawing money from the Consolidated Fund before they needed to spend it and this could have contributed to the increase in spending.

Consolidated Fund expenditure in April was £7.58bn compared with £6.93bn in April 1982 and supply issues within this rose by 9 per cent to £7.26bn - more than the Budget forecast of 5 per cent.

Hanson opposes shop sale

By Jonathan Clare

Hanson Trust, which now controls 79 per cent of the shares in UDS, said yesterday that it intends to vote against the long standing proposal to sell off the troubled retailers Richard Shops and John Collier chains to the Burton Group.

Last night, Mr Michael Wood, Burton's finance director, said Hanson's statement was "a mere formality" and that his company was still negotiating to buy the two chains. The plan to sell them to Burton was first drawn up against the original

bid for UDS from Bassishaw. Mr Wood said the substance of any new deal with Hanson Trust would be the same as the one on the table. Burton was to have paid for the shops with shares but may now be reluctant to see Hanson as one of its prominent shareholders.

Bassishaw is believed to have expressed an interest in the shops, but yesterday, Mr Martin Taylor, Hanson's finance director, was reluctant to say that any negotiations were under way with either company.

COATS PATONS PLC

1982 RESULTS
AND FINAL DIVIDEND

"We can now see the way ahead more clearly and are confident that we shall be in a good position to benefit from any upturn in the world economy; such an improvement seems to be starting in the U.S.A. Although 1983 may still prove to be a difficult year, as a measure of its confidence in the medium term the Board have recommended an increase in the final dividend from 2.6p to 2.9p."

W. D. Coats, Chairman

| | 1982 | 1981 |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|
| millions | | |
| Turnover | 856.2 | 800.4 |
| Trading profit | 85.5 | 86.4 |
| Pre-tax profit | 76.9 | 74.8 |
| Capital Exp. (incl. leasing): | | |
| U.K. | 12.2 | 10.7 |
| Total | 40.6 | 35.2 |
| Net cash flow | 4.7 | (20.0) |
| Gearing | 26% | 30% |
| Earnings per share | 14.6p | 14.7p |
| C.C. Earnings per share | 5.6p | 4.4p |

The Directors recommend an increased final dividend of 2.9p per share (1981 2.6p) which together with the interim dividend of 1.4p (1981 1.4p) amounts to 4.2p per share (1981 4.0p). This dividend will be payable on 1st July 1983 to shareholders on the register on 13th May 1983.

The figures for the year to 31 December 1982 are abridged from the Group's full accounts for that period, which have received an unqualified auditors' report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 25th May, 1983. Further copies will be available from The Secretary, Coats Patons PLC, 155 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5PA.

Call for assault on trade barriers
Ministers urge economic pact

From Frances Williams, Paris

Strong support for closer ties between the key international economic organizations to further the preservation and expansion of the open trading system, emerged from finance and trade ministers meeting yesterday. They had gathered informally at the invitation of Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary.

Ministers and officials of the eight countries present - including the seven summit nations except France, plus the Netherlands and Switzerland - are understood to have concluded their discussions of the linkages between world and financial problems by urging closer cooperation between the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

A similar call was made by the development committee of the World Bank meeting in Washington two weeks ago.



Mr Regan

It is seen as a way of ensuring, for example, that stress on trade liberalization becomes an integral component of IMF adjustment programmes for debtor countries and its annual surveillance procedures for the industrial nations.

Sources said yesterday that although countries recognized the political difficulties of dismantling trade barriers in conditions of recession, high unemployment and overhauling debts, in the medium term they believed this offered the best hope for sustained world recovery and the more rapid growth of the developing nations.

The meeting of trade and finance ministers, the first of its kind ever held, is likely to be repeated later in the year, though no definite plans have yet been made.

American and British spokesmen said yesterday that the meeting had been useful.

Fears that the United States would use the occasion to press for greater restraint on East-West trade proved ill-founded. Instead it was the Americans who came in for criticism, especially from the Japanese, over the strength of the dollar and its adverse impact on world growth, debt and trade.

City Comment

ITT's \$1m
circus by
satellite

ITT claims that yesterday's annual meeting in London was the first time a major American company has assembled its shareholders outside the United States. It must be true. If all American company meetings were like this they could hardly have passed unnoticed.

It was the full circus of American corporate democracy. A film extolling the virtues of ITT European subsidiaries and products, lines of board members filing on to the stage to the accompaniment of soft music, ladies sporting diamonds as big as the Ritz (they stay in Sheratons, however), gentlemen in sports jackets bright enough to stop the traffic - and a corps of professional activists.

The latter are, presumably, invited to enliven the otherwise soporific proceedings. One such, a Miss Evelyn Davis, who modestly introduced herself to a long-suffering audience as America's best known minority rights activist, sensibly suggested that ITT would benefit from better connections with royalty. To this end she proposed that the meeting elect as a director Miss Kathleen "Koo" Stark.

Then in general and Mr Rand Araskog - who as president, chairman and chief executive of ITT does not seem to leave much room for anyone else - bore much of it with patience.

But in a sense the company understood the purpose of the meeting better than some of the more vociferous shareholders.

Multinational corporations have international shareholders as well as international profits. Some 40 per cent of ITT's sales and 30 per cent of its shareholders are in Europe.

It is therefore logical and fair that meetings should be held outside the United States. The extra \$1m cost, about half of which was for a live satellite link to Chicago, is insignificant. The ploy is that shareholders did not make better use of their money to ask constructive questions.

Graham Searjeant looks at the short-term share trends

Election excitement but only briefly

Professor Maurice Peston on

Wynne Godley and Francis Cripps's attempt to 'rebuild macroeconomics'

A failed attempt to reconstruct Keynes

I must start in a rather unconventional way by pointing out what this book is not. *Macroeconomics* is not a survey of macroeconomics, either of theory or of recent controversy about the applicability of theory to the real world.

It is not even an account of Keynesian macroeconomics, at least insofar as that subject is studied and taught in the main academic centres of the US and Britain.

Indeed, one of its more remarkable characteristics is its lack of reference to the publications of virtually all major contemporary contributors to the subject. This is a kind of nursery school democracy about it - if one economist is not to be quoted then none shall have that honour. Whatever else it makes of it, therefore, for the publishers to call it a masterpiece is simply preposterous.

Of course, the authors themselves make no attempt to mislead. To quote them "What we are hoping to do is establish a logical framework for the analysis of macroeconomic phenomena which is coherent and simple enough to rinse away some of the sheer confusion which surrounds the subject at present, thereby facilitating orderly and creative work on the problems of stagnation, unemployment and inflation."

The model

In other words, they are trying to rebuild macroeconomics rather than explain it. I am tempted to go further and say their book reads as if they believe that macroeconomics did not exist before they invented it, their part of Cambridge University.

The theory we are offered in the first instance is in three parts. There is a simple model of an economy in which the variables are expressed in ordinary monetary units. Secondly, there is an account of price inflation. Thirdly, an attempt is made to go from the first two to an analysis of the economy in real terms.

The simple model has several characteristics which are worth noting. It lumps together all private expenditure except inventory accumulation. Thus, it ignores the distinction between consumption and investment which Keynes thought so important. It postulates a fixed normal relationship between assets and incomes, and for the most part between the money stock and income which is a central postulate of primitive monetarism.

Essentially, private expenditure is determined by the desired rate at which the actual money stock is brought to equal the desired one. Inventory accumulation is fixed independently and this is financed by bank loans in the form of money. That is very much part of the approach favoured by Sir Dennis Robertson (again not mentioned by name), who was both Keynes's colleague and intellectual opponent.

Variables

Government expenditure is on goods and services, transfer payments being included in the postulated fixed tax rate (i.e. it is a rate net of transfers). Stock equilibrium in the model requires a balanced budget. This means that income and output are determined by the two fiscal variables.

Monetary policy has only transitory effects on real output (as the monetarists themselves state) unless it affects government expenditure or the average tax rate. (Although not a point the authors stress, it may well do both.)

Also, in full static equilibrium, there can be no asset accumulation, and, therefore, private income must equal private expenditure.

The inflation model is of the strict cost push kind. It claims to be compatible with other theories, but will, presumably, only be so if they are equivalent to price being a simple mark-up on given unit cost. Underlying their approach to the general price level is the view that inflation is the way the system accommodates itself to conflicts about shares of total income, but this is not elaborated.

It is also interesting to see that they accept the distinction between the nominal rate of interest and the real rate.

They do not, however, emphasize the expected inflation rate as the link; nor do they postulate money demand as a function of the nominal rate. Thus, they do not reach Friedman's conclusion that the demand for real balances falls as the inflation rate rises even with the real rate of interest constant.

They have some useful things to say about inflation accounting. This, they claim, provides the essential link which enables them to go from the nominal economy to the real one. In doing so they appear to be arguing that their original model, and its analysis, is compatible with any inflation rate. However, it is not, and it is easy to see why. (I say "appear" because their exposition in this part of the book is most opaque, and I am not sure I follow it.)

Equilibrium

If real income and the real stock of money are fixed in equilibrium, and there is inflation, income and money in ordinary units will be growing. It follows that to provide the extra money, the budget must be unbalanced at full equilibrium (and not balanced as their initial exposition states).

Moreover, it is then the case that, given real government expenditure and the tax rate, the faster the inflation, the lower will be equilibrium real output. It will also be true that the budget deficit will be larger.

Now, it remains true that, in this model, the expansionary fiscal policy raises effective demand and real output to the extent that there are no supply constraints. But this goes hand in hand with monetary expansion, illustrating the standard point that monetary policy and fiscal policy can be regarded as two sides of the same coin.

Their view of the supply side is worth mentioning. They argue that in a closed economy there cannot be a supply constraint in the sense that it will be unprofitable for companies to meet an increase in aggregate demand. What they mean by that, however, is merely that, given the level of money wages (or its rate of change), there will be a price level which companies can set which will make it profitable to supply the output.

That is, however, compatible with an extremely steep aggregate supply curve which causes most of an increase in demand to be dissipated in price rises rather than output expansion. Moreover, as they recognize by implication, in an open economy international competition may inhibit price rises and will certainly imply that some increase in demand will go to overseas suppliers because domestic companies find it unprofitable to meet it.

Puzzle

In addition, if the price response of companies conflicts with workers' real wage demands, it will again be unprofitable for the output demanded to be supplied. In my view, these last two considerations (coupled with a greater emphasis on expectations, rational or otherwise, that the authors give) are vital to an understanding of the economic history of the past decade.

At the risk of returning to the confusions of the 1930s, there is one puzzle to which I must refer. They say that money stocks and flows must satisfy accounting identities in individual budgets, and regard this as quite fundamental.

Now, I thought it had long since been recognised that there is nothing fundamental about an identity, which in this context is simply a way of organizing data. A budget constraint is another matter and is at the core of all economics since without it there would be no scarcity and no costs.

But a constraint is not an identity. In several places in the book Godley and Cripps appear to misunderstand the distinction between an equation and an identity. As an example, they go from an identity concerning price, costs, and a mark-up factor to a causal interpretation reminiscent of the quantity theory of money in its most misleading form.

All I can add is that this is very much in the tradition of Keynes who was equally confused on the nature of identities and equilibrium conditions.

I have been critical of this book in terms of style, method, and content. The authors claim to have re-established "the quintessentially Keynesian principle of effective demand as the determinant of real output and employment". In fact, they tell us nothing about employment, and their treatment of demand and policy is simplistic.

Macroeconomics by Wynne Godley and Francis Cripps. Fontana £3.95.

The June election has provided a welcome comic interlude for stock market analysts. They have spent the past few weeks agonizing over whether the long upward trend in share prices has come to an end or simply paused to rise again as world recovery really starts to materialize. Suddenly the time horizon has shortened to a month.

The stock markets predict rather than genuinely react to events over the months, however much market dealers may like to rationalize daily movements by linking them to strikes, CBI forecasts or the Test match score. So, by the time Mrs Thatcher winged her way to the Palace, stock prices had already assumed her party would win the forthcoming general election, whenever it might be.

But markets day by day express movements in sentiment, so the only way in the short-term was down. The slightest uncertainty over the result was bound to depress share prices. As so often, recently the impetus came from currency markets as foreigners decided to hedge their bets. Add the natural caution of stock-jockeys, keeping their options open and their books closed, and share prices fell 2 per cent in a day. But at least that means short-term prices can move either way as the campaign unfolds.

Already Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker, has bravely mapped out how the campaign diary might affect bonds and therefore shares. After the initial markdown, the best news should come with a remarkable price index for April due on May 20. Unemployment figures due on June 3 will be sharply

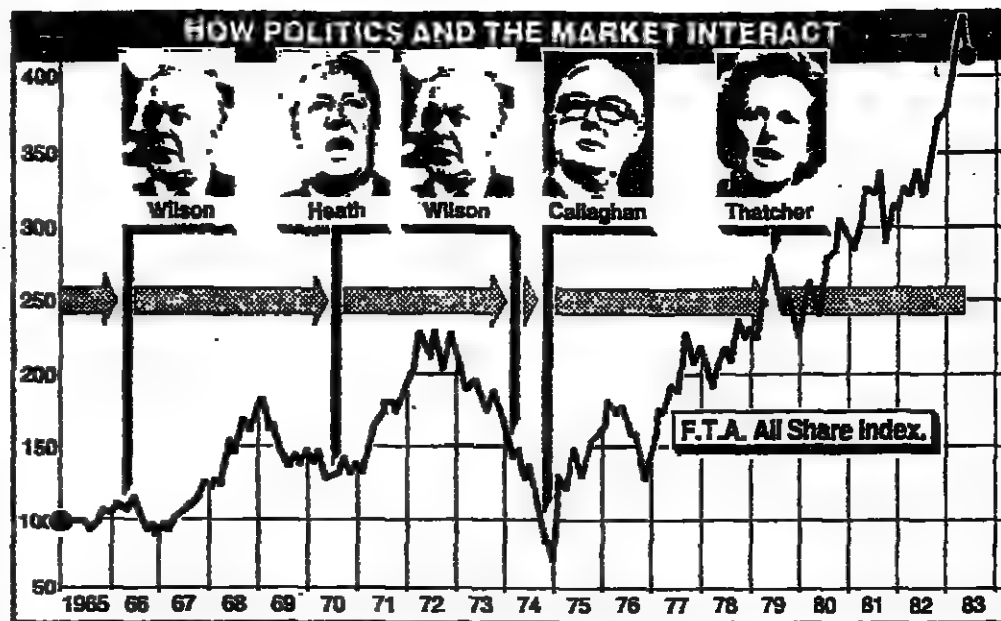
down, but for purely statistical reasons, which could work either way. Later, there could be a cut in US interest rates but any pre-poll cut here would look embarrassingly political. If Mrs Thatcher looks like winning, stocks will rise in the last few days. But remember that in 1979, the markets peaked the day after polling.

Anything but a Tory victory would surely knock both stock and bond prices. This does not strictly reflect a sober analysis of the effects of a different government possible: higher profits balanced against fears of inflation, devaluation, or less likely, higher interest rates. Still less does it bear on the complex short and long-term effects of foreign exchange controls.

It is basically a matter of confidence at home and abroad. Likewise, good timing should yield short-term profits in the euphoria of a Thatcher win. Then it would be quickly back to more mundane analyses. Some canny observers, such as Mr Stephen Lewis of Phillips and Drew, already see a returned Tory administration tightening up on the money supply to stifle any resurgence of inflation and inspire employers to stick out for a modest wage round this year. Others, it should be said, see a further cut in base rates as soon as confidence returns.

There are always two sides to the market argument. Old hands taking the seaward approach see signs of terminal decay in a bull market that took the F.T.A. all-share index up by two-thirds between September 1981 and its peak in mid-April.

There has been a spate of share-for-share takeover bids to capitalize on successful companies' buoyant currency.



Companies are being launched at fancy prices both on the main stock market and its unlisted securities offshoot.

Many of the newest entrants, embarrassed to ask what they think they can get, have auctioned themselves by tender offers for sale. And smart financiers are launching themselves with abandon into companies with fashionable, usually new technology, tags. Could we be back to 1972, when share prices boiled over just as industry was really beginning to enjoy the economic upswing?

The analogy is far from perfect. By that time interest rates were already rising to counter higher profits, the other blade of the stock market scissors. Today, interest rates are still expected to fall, albeit

hopes have been severely modified - to 1 per cent - in the past few months.

Meanwhile, leading stock-brokers are looking for a surge in company profits: 15-20 per cent this year and next from Phillips & Drew, 24 per cent followed by 30 per cent according to James Capel, who excludes the North Sea sector. That would make industrial shares, currently selling at an average 13½ times net profits, look a lot cheaper. But it might only raise 1984 dividend yields to around 5½ per cent, which is not going to thrill big City institutions unless long-term interest rates really start to fall again.

In any case, history rarely repeats exactly. To start with, the upsurge in prices has been going on, with interruptions,

since at least the end of 1979. The market's hopes of cheap money and industrial recovery have been as often delayed and prolonged as everyone else's.

In that time the foreign exchange markets have assumed a much greater importance in determining the direction of stock market prices, forming the third leg of a triangle with profits and interest rates. American buyers, spilling over from frothy Wall Street, pay more attention to the prospects of sterling than of GKN.

The pound will react strongly on shares as prospects of Tory victory or defeat next month fluctuate. But adding an exchange rate factor complicates stock market economics in a topsy turvy world where high US budget deficits produce a

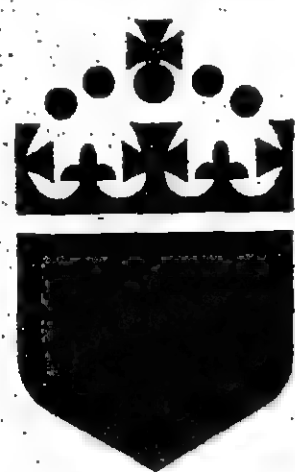
high dollar and threaten British stock values.

Foreigners also complicate the next likely upset for share prices: fear that the anticipated growth in world trade on which British profit hopes rest will fade away in the second half of 1984. In Britain, such heresy is associated with would-be deflationists. But on the other side of the Atlantic, it is the sound of money men who doubt that America's all-important recovery can survive the perils of budget deficits and dodgy money supply figures.

Even here, City analysts are becoming more sceptical than they would like to be of prolonged recovery and find themselves predicting the health of British markets on apparently obscure factors like the reappointment of Mr Paul Volcker, the pragmatic US Federal Reserve's chief.

Such doubts are likely to cause a setback to British shares in the summer or autumn regardless of the eventual outcome. It may well be temporary. But at this stage of what is called a "mature bull market", it would be silly to look for the average of shares rising much more than 10-15 per cent in the next year or more.

Such a rise may be too tempting for the big investors to miss. They have to put their money somewhere. With the British Telecom flotation delayed and barring dramatic upsurge in government borrowing, that money will not pour into the sand. But such prospects are not so exciting for the private investor with heavy investment costs. He will be keener to make a few swift shillings on the election market.

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS FOR 1983
Royal Insurance

The results for the first quarter are set out below; these should not be taken as providing a reliable indication of the outcome for the year as a whole.

| | 3 months to 31 March 1983 (unaudited) | 3 months to 31 March 1982 (unaudited) | Year 1982 (audited) |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m |
| General Insurance: | | | |
| Premiums Written | 498.8 | 432.1 | 1,700.2 |
| Underwriting Balance | -64.2 | -64.1 | -166.1 |
| Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations | 47.2 | 43.2 | 180.8 |
| General Insurance Result | -17.0 | -20.9 | 14.7 |
| Long-term Insurance Profit | 4.1 | 3.3 | 13.6 |
| Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves | 19.3 | 11.9 | 60.5 |
| Share of Associated Companies' Profits | 2.8 | 2.2 | 7.7 |
| Profit before Taxation | 9.2 | -3.5 | 96.5 |
| Less Taxation | 7.1 (credit) | 7.7 (credit) | 22.6 |
| Minority Interests | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Net Profit attributable to the Shareholders | 16.1 (8.5p) | 4.0 (2.1p) | 72.9 (38.7p) |
| Capital and Reserves | £1,324m | £832m | £1,225m |

Exchange Rates
Foreign currencies have been translated according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:—

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| USA | \$1.53 | \$1.85 | \$1.75 |
| Canada | \$1.87 | \$2.23 | \$2.15 |
| Australia | \$1.62 | \$1.70 | \$1.72 |
| Netherlands | Fls4.07 | Fls4.75 | Fls4.66 |

Changes in exchange rates adversely affected the underwriting balance by £7.9m and benefited the total investment income by £7.2m.

Investment Income
Total investment income of £66.5m increased in sterling terms by 21%; allowing for the changes in the rates of exchange the growth was almost 8%.

Long-term Insurance
The profit of £4.1m (£3.3m) represents a quarter of the estimated contribution from long-term insurance profit coming through for the whole year.

General Insurance
Premium income rose by over 15% in sterling; allowing for the effect of currency changes, the increase was 3½%. Details for the individual operating companies are as follows:—

In the United States premium income grew in dollar terms by 1.8%; this was more than accounted for by the recent acquisition of Milbank Insurance Company. The operating ratio was 117.9% (115.2%). All major lines with the exception of homeowners and commercial

automobile worsened. Our firm pricing action in the competitive market conditions led as anticipated to some loss of business in commercial lines. This action and other programmes now in place should however be reflected in improved results later in the year.

Premium volume increased by 6.7% in the UK. Whilst weather losses were lower than in the corresponding period last year they were still considerably above the level of preceding years. In the commercial classes there are some signs of a greater sense of realism in the market place, and we continue to maintain our firm attitude to realistic pricing.

The significant improvement in the result in Canada to which we have previously referred has continued. There was still some loss of business but less than in 1982.

Despite the difficult conditions the premium volume for Royal Int increased by 11% in local currencies and the insurance result was virtually unchanged.

The result for Royal Nederland was also little changed with adverse experience in the competitive motor account offsetting improvements in other lines of business. Premium income fell by 4% in local currency terms.

The result in Australia was seriously impacted by the net loss of £3.4m from the bushfires in Victoria and South Australia. The underlying improvement continues.

The deterioration in the Royal Re result was mainly accounted for by a number of major losses in the non-treaty business.

| | 3 months to 31 March 1983 | | | | 3 months to 31 March 1982 | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Premiums Written £m | Under-Writing Balance £m | Allocated Investment Income £m | General Insurance Result £m | Premiums Written £m | Under-Writing Balance £m | Allocated Investment Income £m | General Insurance Result £m |
| Royal USA | 218.2 | -43.5 | 20.2 | -23.3 | 177.3 | -28.7 | 17.8 | -10.9 |
| Royal UK | 139.1 | -12.9 | 13.3 | 0.4 | 130.4 | -23.8 | 12.5 | -11.3 |
| Royal Canada | 44.4 | -2.4 | 6.9 | 4.5 | 41.1 | -8.7 | 7.2 | -1.5 |
| Royal Int. | 34.3 | -0.4 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 29.1 | -0.2 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Royal Nederland | 25.7 | -1.4 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 23.0 | -1.2 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Royal Australia | 19.6 | -2.6 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 15.8 | -1.1 | 1.8 | 0.7 |
| Royal Re | 17.5 | -1.0 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 15.4 | -0.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| | 498.8 | -64.2 | 47.2 | -17.0 | 432.1 | -64.1 | 43.2 | -20.9 |

Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

RECENT ISSUES

| Company | Price |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |
| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |
| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |
| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |
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| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |
| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |
| Amalgamated (20 Oct 1982) | 12.50 |

Announcements of new issues on the USM are unabated by the current uncertainties in the pre-election market. Yesterday Charterhouse Japhet was busy explaining the virtues of Castle (GB), the fitted kitchen and bathroom company, while broker Simon & Coates was explaining the merits of a planned offer for sale of 20 per cent of the shares in the Adam Leisure Group, which sells electronic games.

Castle comes to the market via a placing of 3,600,000 shares at 80p each arranged by Charterhouse Japhet. Trading begins on the USM on Tuesday. Last year the group made pretax profits of £901,000 on a turnover of £10.1m and is forecasting pretax profits in the year to July this year of not less than £1.1m. This puts the group, which is run by former Golden Wonder crisps salesman, and fitted kitchen expert, Mr Bruce Troughton, on a prospective earnings ratio of 16.43.

Adam Leisure, which looks a riskier bet, is offering for sale 3 million shares at 80p on May 23 and hopes to begin trading on May 26.

The group is forecasting of pretax profits of £3m for the year ending August 31 1983 against £1.2m for the previous year, on sales of £21m. At a minimum tender price of 80p the shares will yield 3.57 per cent and offer a p/e ratio of 13.88.

Elsewhere the stockmarket was much steadier after yesterday's sharp setback, although an initial rally on the back of an option poll favouring the Government's election chances failed to make much headway.

New issues undeterred

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, May 9. Dealings end, May 20. Coverage Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.

The FT index finished the day down 4.1 points at 672.6. However, further consideration of the money supply figures together with lower interest rates hopes helped gild add 1/2 to 1.

Dealers reported that trading was thin across most of the leading shares although Glaxo Holdings fell by 20p to 865p, making a two-day fall of 35p, while Hawker Siddeley was down by 8p at 368p, Becton down 3p at 373p and GEC down 4p at 216p.

However, United Discs was up by 4p to 146p on the day after a bullish statement from Sir Hector Laing, chairman, at the company's annual meeting. He said that trading in the first quarter was substantially higher than last time and the indications were that the results for the very first half of the year would be a good one indeed.

Bellair Cosmetics was up by 70p to 228p on the day after continuing speculation about

the ambitions of a group of Turkish shareholders. Belgrave (Blackheath), the foraging company, came back from 105p to 94p after yesterday's sharp rise on news that Gomba UK had taken a 28 per cent holding.

The broking firm De Zoete and Bevan is recommending shares of Foseco Minsep, the metallurgical and specialist chemicals group, where pretax profits slumped from £23.4m to £14.8m last year. At yesterday's closing price of 142p, the shares are a good way of participating in the US cyclical recovery, says De Zoete.

Shares of Thomas Tilling were down 3p at 205p on news that the BTR had been extended through some dealers expected BTR to increase its £600m bid terms.

Insurance held firm despite poor first-quarter figures from Royal Insurance whose shares

divided 17p to 518p. Commercial Union was up 4p to 164p, with the market still pleased with its first-quarter figures published earlier this week and Guardian Royal Exchange increased by 2p to 443p.

Life insurance companies have also been a strong market with dealers encouraged by industry figures showing the new business generated by homebuyers switching from repayment to endowment mortgages. Sun Life Assurance was up by 5p at 468p, and Pearl Assurance up by 2p at 610p.

Among the brewery shares Davenport increased by 5p to 308p on news that Walverhampton & Dudley Breweries is extending its offer terms.

On the USM Good Relations, the public relations and advertising company, jumped 2p to close at 199p after the chairman reported that the improved economic climate would lead to a greater demand for its services.

Oil shares like BP at 370p and British at 180p ended 4p to 6p although Ultramar ended the day unchanged at 537p after first-quarter results.

THE TIMES 1000

The Works Top Companies

The following companies are ranked according to their 1982 turnover, based on the latest available figures.

Available in the form of a book of £6.25 including postage from

THE TIMES BOOKS, London, W1.

1982-83 High Low Stock Price Chgs Yld Div

BRITISH FUNDS

1982-83 High Low Stock Price Chgs Yld Div

SHORTS

1982-83 High Low Stock Price Chgs Yld Div

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By Jeremy Warner

WALL STREET

[illegible]

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Robert Hermans, managing director of Seagram (UK), has been appointed a director of Seagram Distillers, the holding company for all Seagram's operations in the United Kingdom.

Mrs Diane Brown, the Chemical Industries Association environment executive, has been elected chairman of the Society of Chemical Industry's Water and Environment Group. She is the first woman to chair this group and will serve for two years.

Mr P. G. Cazalet has been appointed a non-executive director of The De La Rue Company. Mr Cazalet is managing director of The British Petroleum Company and a non-executive director of Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Mr Norman Hawkins, Cadbury sales director, becomes commercial director in the UK.

| | | |
|-------------------|----|---|
| ABN Bank | 10 | % |
| Barclays | 10 | % |
| BCCI | 10 | % |
| Consolidated Crdn | 10 | % |
| C. Hoare & Co | 10 | % |
| Lloyds Bank | 10 | % |
| Midland Bank | 10 | % |
| Nat Westminster | 10 | % |
| TSB | 10 | % |
| Williams & Glyn's | 10 | % |

confectionery division. Mr. Collis James and Mr. John Tweedale are appointed divisional sales directors, responsible for the retail and wholesale sales forces respectively.

Mr Alan Fox, now deputy chairman of Longdon Industrial Holdings, becomes non-executive chairman, Mr David Fisher is the new chief executive and Mr Harry Smith continues as deputy chief executive. Mr Graham Gascoigne has been appointed finance director. Mr Alfred Dale has retired as chairman and chief executive but remains an executive director of Longdon Industrial Holdings. Mr Eric Sherratt also retires as finance director but remains a non-executive director.

Mr John Ferris, chairman and managing director of Wessux Decorators (Southern), Bristol, has been elected president of the National Federation

of Painting and Decorating Contractors for 1983/84. The new senior vice-president is Mr John Milne, joint managing director of Daly (Painting Contractors), Coventry, and the junior vice-president is Mr C. T. Holmes, chairman of Cyril Holmes (Painters), Barry, South

Glamorgan. Mr Stuart Walsh has been promoted to director at MSA (Management Science America) Limited.

Mr Peter Goldman has been elected president of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC) - the consortium of consumer organisations in EEC countries. Mr Goldman, the director of the Consumer's Association, publishers of *Which?* since 1964, is the first British president of BEUC.

Granville & Co Limited.

(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)
27/28, 1, Great Lane, London EC3B 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

| 1985-86 | High | Low | Company | Pdcs | Ch/ps | Gross Dollars | Yld % | P/E | Author | Folio Trans |
|---------|------|-----|-------------------------|------|-------|------------------|----------|------|--------|----------------|
| 142 | 120 | | Ass Brit Ind Ord | 134 | - | 6.4 | 4.8 | 7.8 | 10.3 | |
| 158 | 117 | | Ass Brit Ind CULS | 151 | - | 10.0 | 6.6 | - | - | |
| 74 | 57 | | Airpump Group | 62 | - | 6.1 | 9.8 | 17.7 | 17.7 | |
| 46 | 29 | | Armington & Rhodes | 29 | - | 4.3 | 14.8 | 3.5 | 5.7 | |
| 327 | 197 | | Bardon Hill | 527 | - | 11.4 | 3.5 | 13.7 | 17.3 | |
| 248 | 100 | | CCL 11.0% Conv Pref | 148 | - | 15.7 | 10.6 | - | - | |
| 179 | 210 | | Clackson Group | 210 | - | 13.0 | 10.0 | - | - | |
| 178 | 100 | | Clackson Services | 48 | - | 6.0 | 12.5 | 3.2 | 8.6 | |
| 974 | 77 | | Frank Horsell | 96 | - | - | - | 8.0 | 8.6 | |
| 96 | 75% | | Frank Horsell Pr Ord 57 | 94% | - | 8.7 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 11.3 | |
| 83 | 61 | | Frederick Parker | 62 | - | 7.1 | 11.5 | 3.9 | 6.2 | |
| 55 | 34 | | George Rish | 34 | - | 6.2 | 10.0 | 5.8 | 12.3 | |
| 704 | 74 | | Ind Procs Holdings | 76 | - | 7.3 | 9.6 | - | - | |
| 107 | 100 | | Isis Conv Pref | 170 | - | 15.7 | 9.2 | - | - | |
| 140 | 94 | | Jackson Group | 147 | - | 7.5 | 5.1 | 4.5 | 9.4 | |
| 223 | 111 | | James Burrough | 223 | - | 9.6 | 4.3 | 16.3 | 18.1 | |
| 260 | 148 | | Robert Jenkins | 148 | - | 20.0 | 13.5 | 1.6 | 23.5 | |
| 83 | 34 | | Suttons "A" | 67 | - | 5.7 | 8.7 | 10.7 | 10.8 | |
| 119 | 112 | | Tonday & Curdell | 112 | - | 11.4 | 10.2 | 5.0 | 8.6 | |
| 231 | 20 | | Unibols Holdings | 25 | - | 0.46 | 1.8 | - | - | |
| 84 | 64 | | Walter Alexander | 68 | - | 6.4 | 9.4 | 4.9 | 7.0 | |
| 270 | 214 | | W. S. Yeates | 265 | - | 17.1 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 8.5 | |

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

| LONDON METAL EXCHANGE | | | | SUGAR | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|----------|----|--|--|
| Prices in pounds and shillings per ton | | | | Vulcan's | | | |
| Silver in pence per ounce | | | | Premium | | | |
| Vulcan's | | | | Premium | | | |
| High grade copper | | | | Wool | | | |
| Cash | 1181.00-1182.00 | 1183.00-1184.00 | | 440-445 | | | |
| Three months | 1177.00-1178.00 | 1179.00-1180.00 | | 445-450 | | | |
| Constant cash (import) | 1184.00-1185.00 | 1186.00-1187.00 | | 450-455 | | | |
| Three months | 1181.00-1182.00 | 1183.00-1184.00 | | 455-460 | | | |
| Three months | 1171-1172 | 1173-1174 | | 460-465 | | | |
| Three months | 1161-1162 | 1163-1164 | | 465-470 | | | |
| Lead cash | 263.00-264.00 | 265.00-266.00 | | 470-475 | | | |
| Three months | 261.00-262.00 | 263.00-264.00 | | 475-480 | | | |
| Three months | 259.00-260.00 | 261.00-262.00 | | 480-485 | | | |
| Three months | 257.00-258.00 | 259.00-260.00 | | 485-490 | | | |
| Three months | 255.00-256.00 | 257.00-258.00 | | 490-495 | | | |
| Three months | 253.00-254.00 | 255.00-256.00 | | 495-500 | | | |
| Three months | 251.00-252.00 | 253.00-254.00 | | 500-505 | | | |
| Three months | 249.00-250.00 | 251.00-252.00 | | 505-510 | | | |
| Three months | 247.00-248.00 | 249.00-250.00 | | 510-515 | | | |
| Three months | 245.00-246.00 | 247.00-248.00 | | 515-520 | | | |
| Three months | 243.00-244.00 | 245.00-246.00 | | 520-525 | | | |
| Three months | 241.00-242.00 | 243.00-244.00 | | 525-530 | | | |
| Three months | 239.00-240.00 | 241.00-242.00 | | 530-535 | | | |
| Three months | 237.00-238.00 | 239.00-240.00 | | 535-540 | | | |
| Three months | 235.00-236.00 | 237.00-238.00 | | 540-545 | | | |
| Three months | 233.00-234.00 | 235.00-236.00 | | 545-550 | | | |
| Three months | 231.00-232.00 | 233.00-234.00 | | 550-555 | | | |
| Three months | 229.00-230.00 | 231.00-232.00 | | 555-560 | | | |
| Three months | 227.00-228.00 | 229.00-230.00 | | 560-565 | | | |
| Three months | 225.00-226.00 | 227.00-228.00 | | 565-570 | | | |
| Three months | 223.00-224.00 | 225.00-226.00 | | 570-575 | | | |
| Three months | 221.00-222.00 | 223.00-224.00 | | 575-580 | | | |
| Three months | 219.00-220.00 | 221.00-222.00 | | 580-585 | | | |
| Three months | 217.00-218.00 | 219.00-220.00 | | 585-590 | | | |
| Three months | 215.00-216.00 | 217.00-218.00 | | 590-595 | | | |
| Three months | 213.00-214.00 | 215.00-216.00 | | 595-600 | | | |
| Three months | 211.00-212.00 | 213.00-214.00 | | 600-605 | | | |
| Three months | 209.00-210.00 | 211.00-212.00 | | 605-610 | | | |
| Three months | 207.00-208.00 | 209.00-210.00 | | 610-615 | | | |
| Three months | 205.00-206.00 | 207.00-208.00 | | 615-620 | | | |
| Three months | 203.00-204.00 | 205.00-206.00 | | 620-625 | | | |
| Three months | 201.00-202.00 | 203.00-204.00 | | 625-630 | | | |
| Three months | 199.00-200.00 | 201.00-202.00 | | 630-635 | | | |
| Three months | 197.00-198.00 | 199.00-200.00 | | 635-640 | | | |
| Three months | 195.00-196.00 | 197.00-198.00 | | 640-645 | | | |
| Three months | 193.00-194.00 | 195.00-196.00 | | 645-650 | | | |
| Three months | 191.00-192.00 | 193.00-194.00 | | 650-655 | | | |
| Three months | 189.00-190.00 | 191.00-192.00 | | 655-660 | | | |
| Three months | 187.00-188.00 | 189.00-190.00 | | 660-665 | | | |
| Three months | 185.00-186.00 | 187.00-188.00 | | 665-670 | | | |
| Three months | 183.00-184.00 | 185.00-186.00 | | 670-675 | </ | | |

Review of Ultramar Group Financial Results and Operations

Summary of financial results

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Turnover | 423.0 | 343.8 |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 47.9 | 43.7 |
| Net profit | 25.2 | 20.1 |
| Cash flow from operations | 37.1 | 33.3 |
| Capital expenditures | 52.0 | 36.3 |

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement:

'For the first quarter of 1983, the financial results of the Ultramar Group held up very well despite the depressed oil price structure.'

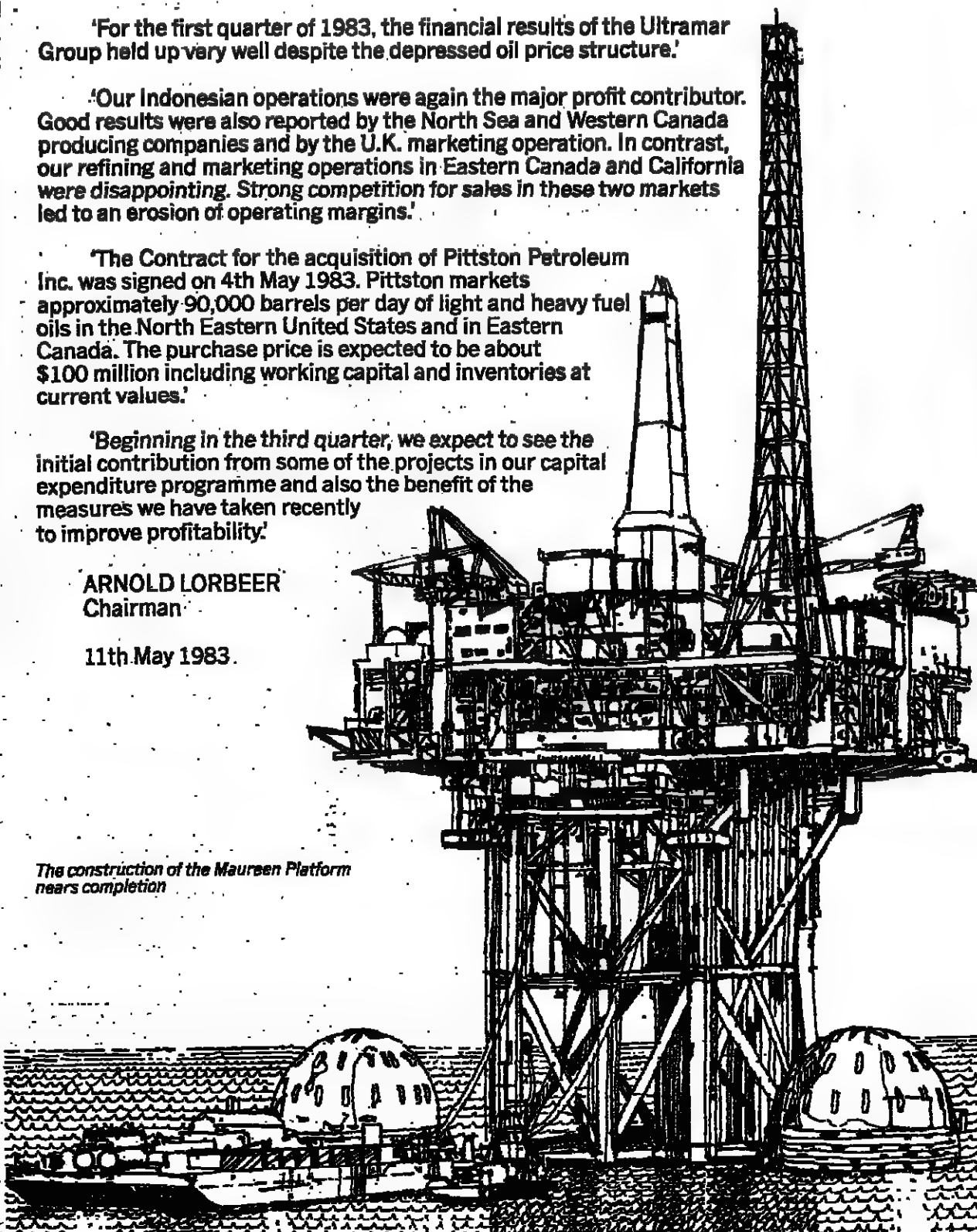
⁴Our Indonesian operations were again the major profit contributor. Good results were also reported by the North Sea and Western Canada producing companies and by the U.K. marketing operation. In contrast, our refining and marketing operations in Eastern Canada and California were disappointing. Strong competition for sales in these two markets led to an erosion of operating margins.

The Contract for the acquisition of Pittston Petroleum Inc. was signed on 4th May 1983. Pittston markets approximately 90,000 barrels per day of light and heavy fuel oils in the North Eastern United States and in Eastern Canada. The purchase price is expected to be about \$100 million including working capital and inventories at current values.

'Beginning in the third quarter, we expect to see the initial contribution from some of the projects in our capital expenditure programme and also the benefit of the measures we have taken recently to improve profitability.'

ARNOLD LORBEER
Chairman

11th May 1983.



**The construction of the Maureen Platform
nears completion**

Queens Moat Houses P.L.C., whose chain of hotels was doubled in number during the year, achieved record trading results in 1982.

- Profit before tax rose £1,752,000 to a record £2,780,000 in 1982.
 - £10m. to be raised by 1 for 3 rights issue at 28p to finance recent growth and maintain maximum flexibility to expand and improve the portfolio of hotels.
 - A profits forecast of not less than £4m. with dividends of 1.33p per share (1982 1.21p per share).
 - The Group now operates a chain of 49 hotels and continues to cater for commercial clientele, but is well placed to reap benefit from both the upturn in the general economy and increased number of tourists coming to the UK.
 - The hotels provide a total of 3,627 bedrooms (95% with private bath) and extensive conference, restaurant and banqueting facilities.
 - This year the first hotel in London was acquired — the 129 bedroom Drury Lane Hotel, now renamed Drury Lane Most House.
- The integration of the acquisitions has been extremely successful and the management is in a position to continue the policy which has led to the growth of the company, resulting in an unbroken record of profit improvement since 1975.

The integration of the acquisitions has been extremely successful and the management is in a position to continue the policy which has led to the growth of the company, resulting in an unbroken record of profit improvement since 1975.

Queens Moat Houses

For a copy of the 1982 Report & Accounts and details of the share issue write to:
Company Secretary, Queens Moat Houses P.L.C., FREEPOST, Romford, Essex RM1 2BR

| Consolidated Profit and Loss Account | First Quarter 1983 £ million | First Quarter 1982 £ million | Year 1982 £ million |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Turnover | £423.0 | £343.8 | £1,513.3 |
| Cost of sales | <u>355.1</u> | <u>281.3</u> | <u>1,246.6</u> |
| Gross profit | 67.9 | 62.5 | 267.2 |
| Distribution costs and administrative expenses | <u>25.0</u> | <u>19.4</u> | <u>93.4</u> |
| | 42.9 | 43.1 | 173.8 |
| Other operating income | <u>9.0</u> | <u>7.5</u> | <u>34.4</u> |
| | 51.9 | 50.6 | 208.2 |
| Interest payable | <u>4.0</u> | <u>6.9</u> | <u>23.0</u> |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 47.9 | 43.7 | 185.2 |
| Taxation on profit on ordinary activities | <u>22.4</u> | <u>21.9</u> | <u>79.4</u> |
| Profit on ordinary activities after taxation | 25.5 | 21.8 | 105.8 |
| Foreign exchange fluctuations | <u>(0.3)</u> | <u>(1.7)</u> | <u>(1.7)</u> |
| Net profit | <u>£ 25.2</u> | <u>£ 20.1</u> | <u>£ 104.1</u> |
| Cash flow from operations | <u>£ 37.1</u> | <u>£ 33.3</u> | <u>£ 158.6</u> |
| Earnings per share | 20.9p | 17.8p | 91.9p |

| | 31st March 1983 | 31st March 1982 | 31st December 1982 |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| £1 equals US\$ | 1.48 | 1.78 | 1.62 |
| £1 equals Can.\$ | 1.83 | 2.19 | 1.99 |

| Operating results | First Quarter 1983 | First Quarter 1982 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sales of oil (barrels per day) | 182,500 | 186,100 |
| Oil refined (barrels per day) | 81,600 | 91,700 |
| Oil produced (barrels per day) | 9,400 | 9,600 |
| Gas produced (thousands of cubic feet per day) | 182,700 | 184,400 |
| Gross wells drilled | 31 | 50 |
| Oil and gas wells completed (in which the Group has varying interests) | 23 | 25 |



Ultramar

**Morgan House, 1 Angel Court
London EC2R 7AU**

For a copy of the full Review of Group Financial Results and Operations for the Three Months to 31st March 1983 please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary above address.

Name _____

Address _____

Appointments General

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
**ENGLISH TRANSLATORS/
PRECIS WRITERS**
working from French and Arabic

A competitive examination for the recruitment of ENGLISH translators/precis writers will be held on 4 and 5 August, 1983, to fill vacancies in the Translation Division, Department of Conference Services, at the United Nations Secretariat in New York and subsequently at other duty stations. A roster from which future vacancies for translators will be filled will be established. As recruitment may lead to career appointments, the United Nations is looking for candidates who can serve for a substantial number of years.

Applicants must:
Have **ENGLISH** as their main language (main language to be understood as the language into which the candidate is best able to translate);
Have a good command of **ENGLISH** and an excellent knowledge of **FRENCH** and **ARABIC** – knowledge of additional languages and previous translation experience would be considered an asset;
Hold a degree or an equivalent qualification from a university or institution of equivalent status at which **ENGLISH** was the main language of instruction;
Starting gross base salary: 24,000 dollars per annum plus post adjustment (7,634 dollars per annum at present subject to change) and family allowances.
Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to Personnel Service (English Translation), Examination Office 247, Secretariat Recruitment Centre, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, together with a self addressed envelope, stamped matter for documentation, minimum dimensions 10x15 cm, and the receipt of completed application forms is 31 Mar. 1983.

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to join their small specialist team operating an appointments service for the surveying profession.

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For further information, telephone 05 890 9900 or write to the Director of Personnel, ISAC, 100, The Quadrant, London W1 8PF.

Applications with c.v. (and daytime telephone number) to The Personnel Officer, Surveyors Holdings Limited, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD. Telephone: 01-222 7000 Ext. 212

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165/167 Kensington High St
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ATION LOGY

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Strategy
(under review)

organisation involving the introduction of computers used in an on-line/real-time environment. Candidates must be skilled in personnel area, industrial relations and the technical aspects of managing change during a period of large scale technical innovation.

The salary for this post, which is under review, is £28,235 a year, inclusive of inner London weighting. However, the Department will be requested to consider, if necessary, a

Relocation assistance may be available.

For further details and an application (to be returned by 8 June 1983) write to

ivil Service Commission, Alencon Link,
ngstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone
ngstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service
sures outside office hours). *Please quote*
5914/1.

The National Farmers' Union

JUNIOR ECONOMIST

Further particulars from the Director of Staff Relations, NIFU,
—Indira Nagar, Kishanganur District

Foreign Affairs Analyst

position available for person qualified to summarise and analyse world events and write daily reports and analyses on international affairs. Person must be able to maintain and organise general files and computer library containing country data, press articles and reference material. Position requires relevant university level or practical experience. Salary to be negotiated. Please apply with full particulars.

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